FARM LABOR NEWS

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Plot To Keep Members Off Jobs Exposed

A plot that was planned to stop unemployed workers from the South from going to Maryland on a job this summer, has just been exposed.

Responsible for this plot was Donald Henderson, notorious Communist Party chief, of the so-called Food, Tobacco, and Allied Workers Union, C.I.O., known here in the South as UCAPAWA.

Spy Planted In Union

Henderson planted a spy who went by the name of Buford Posey, in the office of the National Farm Labor Union. Henderson then threatened to strike the plants owned by the Campbell Soup Co. in Chicago and Camden, N. J., if the company carried out its plan to hire 210 unemployed members of the National Farm Labor Union to work in their new canning factory at Salisbury, Maryland. The Campbell Soup Co. was just opening this new plant and not a single member of Henderson's alleged union was employed there. The Campbell Soup Co. officials stood firm on their contract and told Mr. Henderson that he could not give them orders as to whom they should hire for a plant where he had no members.

Accuses Union Leaders

Henderson charged H. L. Mitchell, President; and Barney Taylor, Organization Director, with being in "a conspiracy to break up the FTA-CIO." President Leon B. Schachter of the A. F. of L. Meat and Cannery Workers Union; and a representative of the Campbell Soup Co. were also charged with being parties to this so-called "plot." Henderson based his charge on an alleged affidavit made by Buford W. Posey who has been exposed as a young Communist who was planted in the Union office for the purpose of rifling office files and securing information that might be of value to the Communists in their drive to organize the South.

Threatened Strike In 1945

It will be recalled that 400 Union members were employed in the Campbell Soup Co. plant in Camden during the summer of 1944 and that a similar group was kept from going to work last year when Henderson successfully threatened to stop production in the Campbell Soup Co. plant. In 1944 Russia was at war and the Communists were doing everything to aid the war effort, even at the expense of American

(Continued On Page Four)

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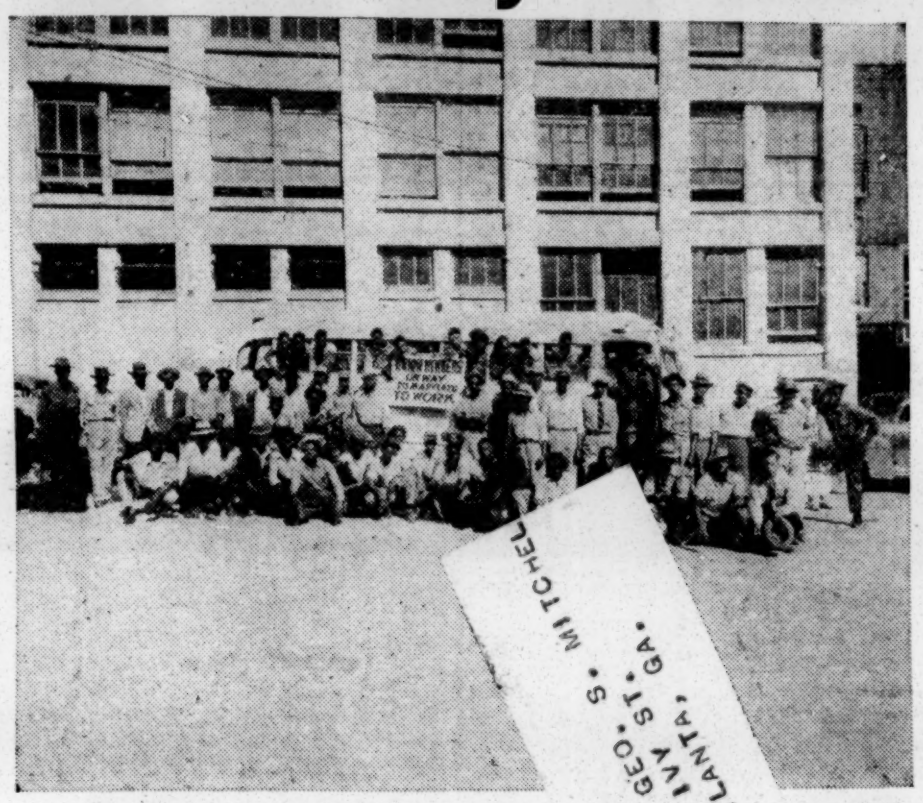
Union Lawyer Helps Get Fair Settlement

Jasper Ritchman, member of Local No. 194 at Grady, Ark., reports that Attorney K. T. Sutton has secured a fair settlement of his 1945 crop account with Mr. G. C. Wood, landlord. Mr. Wood had refused to pay the member the full amount due him. The complant was placed in the hands of the Union lawyer. Mr. Sutton started legal proceedings to collect the money so the claim was paid promptly.

On The Way To Jobs



The first group of 60 Union members ... Campbell Soup Co. plant in Salisbury, Maryland, l... two large buses, Friday, July 12th. Other bus loads le... ek during July. They will work throughout the tomato season ...urning to the South in time for cotton picking, early in October.

Time To Pay Your 1947 Union Dues

Starting September 1st., all local secretaries may collect 1947 membership dues from any and all members. The membership dues are $4,00 per family for all who were in good standing in 1946. All new members and those who have not paid up in full this year will pay $5.00. The membership dues cover husband and wife and all children under 16 years of age who are living at home. All others are required to pay the full amount.

Members should start paying their dues for 1947 early in the fall. The first 2,000 who pay up for 1947 will receive a large sized 1947 calendar. The new calendars will be in from the printers early in September. There will not be as many as last year, so get yours early.

All members who live near an organized local should pay their dues to the local's secretary. Be sure the secretary has your name and the place you get your mail on the receipt he gives you or otherwise, you will not get either your calendar or your FARM LABOR NEWS each month.

All members who live in communities where there is no local, may send in their Union dues for 1947 to the office. Their membership will be placed in a general local until such a time as one is organized near where they live. Any member of a local paying his dues direct to the office will receive a calendar and told to go to his local secretary for his new 1947 cards

During the year, there will be no reduction in dues. All members must pay the full amount or they will not be in good standing. Members who do not pay before January 1, 1947, will be in arrears.

Cotton May Hit 50c A Pound But There's A Bust Coming

By H. L. MITCHELL

Cotton prices are now over 36¢ a pound. Many people believe the price will go to 50¢ before the fall is over. Everyone expects at least 40¢ for cotton.

Some of us who lived in the Mississippi delta area back in 1919 and 1920, remember when long staple cotton was nearly a dollar a pound. I made my first sharecrop that year near Ruleville, Miss., on old man Marshall's plantation. I was just 15 years old. I had 5 acres of fine cotton and did not owe but a little to the landlord. I picked out a bale and wanted to sell it at 70¢ a pound. The landlord said for me to hold it and we would get a dollar. I held my cotton like the landlord said—there wasn't anything else to do. I got out another bale and held that. I started in to pick another—then the price started to fall. I got less than 10¢ a pound when it was finally sold. I took my share of the money and bought my first suit with long pants. There wasn't enough left to buy a pair of Sunday shoes.

It may not happen this fall but it won't be long until the big bust comes again. The price of cotton is too high to last. My advice to members of the Union is to sell your cotton at the market price just as soon as you pick it out and get it ginned. Get the highest price you can but don't hold it. Let the big planter go broke by himself this time. If he wants to gamble on cotton going to 50¢ a pound—let him take a chance with his own money—but not with yours.

Ark. Planters Want Cheap Foreign Labor

Northeast Arkansas planters, accustomed to securing labor from nearby towns and cities, are demanding that the Government import 2,500 Mexicans and British subjects this fall to beat wages paid for cotton picking.

E. C. "Took" Gathings, representing the big cotton planters in the Congress of the United States, is acting in his masters' behalf in trying to get the Government to bring in foreign labor to Arkansas to be exploited.

Union Protests To British, Mexican Governments

Meanwhile, H. L. Mitchell, President of the National Farm Labor Union, has filed complaints with the governments of Great Britain and Mexico against the proposed use of their nationalists to beat down wages of American workers.

The International Landworkers Federation, with which the NFLU is affiliated, has also been requested to use its influence with British colonial officials and the Mexican Government to prevent the exploitation of foreign labor.

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Now Land Grabbers Want More From Twist Cooperative

Not content with turning over the 15,000 acre Twist Plantation to a set of "land hogs" in northeast Arkansas, the heirs of the Twist Estate have filed a suit in U. S. District Court at Helena, demanding $97,000 damages alleged to have been caused the property under government operation.

This is seen as a further move on the part of the plantation interests in Arkansas to tie up the property of the Twist Co-operative Association which was accumulated during the past 10 years.

The National Farm Labor Union has offered legal assistance to the Co-op Association in their fight to prevent plantation thieves from robbing them of an estimated half million dollars.

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Words Of Liberty

By ROGER BALDWIN,
Director American Civil Liberties Union

Here are the 80 most precious words in the English language: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances. . . . "The right of the citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude."

Our Guest Column

College Boys And Girls Volunteer To Help At Delmo Homes Project

By MARJORIE ALLEN

At the south Lilbourn Delmo Labor Homes there is a house that used to be the manager's home when FSA operated the housing project for farm labor. Over the porch of this house there now hangs a sign reading "Friends Work Camp." Here a group of ten young people are living while they work without pay on community buildings for the residents of the north Lilbourn Negro project and the East Prairie white projects.

Work Campers Come From Distant Places

The work campers come from nine different colleges and almost as many parts of the country. None of them were ever in southeast Missouri until this summer. All of them had heard and read about the problems of the people in this area and they came down to help them during their vacation.

Early Risers

In their work at the camp, they have learned that it helps to get up early and start work before the sun gets too hot. They get up about 5 o'clock every morning and are on the job by 6:30 for a five hour stretch. They finish their day's work between 2 and 5 every afternoon. The work is supervised by an experienced carpenter.

Who Is Who

Among the better carpenters is Carl Baird, a student at Yale Divinity School, who hopes to do relief work abroad and to become a small town minister of the Gospel. Carl recently made a slide for the children at south Lilbourn and we hope to start a playground here. Frank Crane, also from Yale, has organized a baseball game each week at both the white and Negro projects at Lilbourn. He is interested in interracial work and plans to become a minister in a city church. Tall John Wires, who stands "five foot and fifteen inches," is a veteran who served one year in American Field Service and two years with the Army Medical Corps with the infantry. He expects to graduate from Haverford College next year. He wants to spend some time doing relief work in foreign countries.

The only member of the group who is thought to be "a foreigner," is Phil Babcock who comes from Boston, Mass. Some of the local people thought he came from Australia because of his Boston accent. Phil has worked on cattle ranches and in a saw mill. He hopes to enter Olivet College in the fall.

Girls Are Carpenters Too

Girl work campers are: Emily Frey, Letha Jean Curtis, and the writer, Marjorie Allen. The girls too are learning the art of a carpenter. They have bent many nails and mashed a few fingers in the process of learning. Emily Frey will be a junior at Queens College where she is studying biology. Letha Jean is a graduate of the University of Kansas and is going to the University of Wisconsin. She plans to be a college teacher. Marjorie Allen is Youth Secretary for the Friends Service Committee in New England. She is a graduate of Southern Methodist University and the University of Texas.

All Take Turns At Housework

Frances Deaver, teacher of home economics in Souderton, Pa., plans the meals and instructs her assistant, known as the "K. P.", in house cleaning, cooking, and dish washing. Each camper, boy and girl, takes a turn at K. P.

Supervisor Of The Work Camp

Arthur Churchill, Director of the Work Camp, expects to complete his training at Chicago Theological Seminary and become a minister to migrant workers. Several years ago, he worked in Ypsilanti, Michigan, and last year he and his wife, Ruth, worked with Mexican tomato pickers in Indiana. They have two small daughters, Kathryn and Marilyn, who are also members of the Work Camp household.

A Quaker Project

This year the Friends Work Camp in Missouri is one of 14 summer volunteer work projects throughout the country sponsored by the American Friends Service Committee. This Committee is the social service and relief organization of the Quakers. It is the hope of the Service Committee that such groups as the Lilbourn Work Camp may build bridges of unstanding between different kinds of people—and while the work campers work with their hands, that they may make some small contribution to a solution of the problems which plague society.

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Farm Wages Up Some

Farm wages throughout the United States average $4.84 per day, accordng to the July 1st. report of the Department of Agriculture in Washington.

Wage rates of $8.10 per day in California were the highest reported. $6.00 is being paid in New Jersey for farm work. The lowest rate was in South Carolina where farm labor received $2.65 per day. Alabama was next with $2.80 a day. Mississippi was reported paying $3 a day, and Arkansas, $3.40 for 10 hours work. Missouri rates of $4.50 led the South.

Snake In The Grass

BUFORD W. POSEY

2,000 years ago there were gathered together 12 men who were disciples of a carpenter—Jesus of Nazareth. One of the 12 proved to be a traitor. He was Judas Iscariot. According to all reports, Judas was a nice looking but a weak young man. He denied his faith.

About two months ago, the man whose picture appears above, came to the office of the National Farm Labor Union. He said he was a disabled veteran attending a little college in Mississippi and that he wanted a job for the summer months. He was employed by the Union and like Judas, he denied his "faith."

This young man turned out to be a "snake in the grass" who was acting as an agent for the Communist Party. He rifled the files of the National Office—seeking information that would be of value to his masters. Finding nothing he could use to advantage, he suddenly disappeared. He was next heard from through the column of a Philadelphia, Pa., newspaper in which he denounced the organization which took him in.

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Blood Tests Made

Information has been received that workers who need health cards to secure employment may have blood tests made at the Mercy Hospital in Forrest City at low cost. Tests are made one day and cards issued the next.

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Pass Your Farm Labor News On To Your Neighbors. Let Them Know What The Union Is Doing For Its Members

Big Rally Opens Drive At Gobler

Over two hundred southeast Missouri tenant farmers and farm hands, about equally divided between whites and Negroes, turned out for a mass meeting Sunday, July 14, to hear Captain Barney B. Taylor, the Union's Organization Director, in a plea to "organize into an unbreakable union."

The meeting, sponsored by the strong and vigorous Gobler Local, was also ddressed by President B. S. Beck, who called for unity between whites and Negroes. "If we don't stand together, the big shots will use us to break each other," he said.

Both Captain Taylor and President Beck were received with great enthusiam, and old time members said that the talk was "all for the Union." Visitors came from Bragg City, Lilbourn, and other places for the meeting.

President H. L. Mitchell, and Secretary-Treasurer, Dorothy Dowe, arrived late for the meeting but the people gathered around the back of a truck which served as the speaker's stand, to hear President Mitchell urge the southeast Missouri members to get ready for the Washington convention.

Captain Taylor remained in southeast Missouri for additional local meetings in Wardell, Parma, East Prairie, and Wyatt, before returning to Memphis.

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Your Vote May Help In Primary Elections

There will be primary elections in Arkansas on July 30th. and August 13th. All members of the Union who have paid their poll taxes and qualified to vote, are urged to go to the polls. Every qualified person, regardless of whether he is white or colored, has a legal right to vote in these elections. Union members are going to the polls and wherever they are denied the right to vote because of race or color, their local leaders will take affidavits as to what happened and the U. S. District Attorneys will be called on to prosecute persons depriving citizens of their legal rights.

The Arkansas State Press advises its readers in Arkansas to vote for candidates for office that organized labor recommends. This is good advice. Another piece of sound advice to voters who do not know the candidiates' records, is to vote against the man already in office unless he has proven to be a friend of the working man. There are few such friends in Arkansas.

Primary elections in Missouri will be held August 6th. There is no poll tax and Union members are turning out to vote enmasse for local and county officers.

SEN. PHIL I. BLUSTER

Rate For Cotton Picking Should Be $4.00 A 100

Wages for picking cotton this fall should be much higher than were paid last year under the wage ceilings set in Arkansas and Mississippi. The price of cotton was above 36¢ a pound on July 25th. It is expected to go higher.

How Wage Rates Are Figured

When cotton is 10¢ a pound or less, $1 a 100 lbs. is usually paid. When it gets to 15¢ a pound, $1.50 per 100 lbs. is paid. When it is 16¢ to 20¢, the rate is about $2.00; 20¢ to 25¢, $2.50 per 100. 25¢ to 30¢, it should be at least $3 a hundred. Now that it is close to 40¢, pickers should demand at least $4.00 per 100 pounds this fall.

Amount Of Cotton Picked Per Day

There are some pickers who can pick 200 to 300 pounds a day in good cotton. A few can even pick more than that. But the average man or woman, counting time off for heavy dew in the morning and unfavorable weather, will do well to average picking 150 a day for 5 days a week for the 8 weeks the season lasts. At $4 a hundred pounds, that is $6 a day, $30 a week, or $240 for the season. That is not much money since the prices on food and clothing have gone so high.

How Union Members Get Their Crops Out

There are still a few members of the Union who are tenants, or sharecroppers, or small farm owners, who sometimes have to hire a little labor to have their crop picked. A plan has been worked out in a number of Union Locals whereby the members get together and decide what to do to help each other get the crops picked out. Often they decide to swap labor with each other, to set a wage rate to pay each other that is fair. Then they help one another and the Union man gets his crop cleaned out before anyone outside the Union gets any work done. If they work for the big planter, it is only at the Union wage scale.

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Planters Working To Hold Down Price For Cotton Picking

The Delta Council organization of Mississippi planters has asked the Department of Agriculture to again impose a low ceiling on wages to be paid cotton pickers this fall.

Action has been delayed pending the enactment of a new OPA price control law by Congress.

The National Farm Labor Union promises a fight to the finish with planters and the Department of Agriculture if they attempt to set a ceiling on cotton picking wages this fall. H. L. Mitchell, President, said, "We will challenge their right to beat down wages of farm labor in the federal courts. We will call the Department of Agriculture to account before the bar of public opinion. As a final resort, we will call upon every cotton picker in the mid-South to refuse to pick cotton for an unfair wage."

Union Leaders In New Jersey

President H. L. Mitchell and Vice President F. R. Betton recently visited the P. J. Ritter plant in Bridgeton, N. J. In the picture with the President and Vice President of the Union, are Mr. Earl McCormick, Personnel Director for the company; Mr. Elmer Hewitt, Business Agent for the Meat and Cannery Workers Union; and Robert Cossaboon, Chief Steward for the A. F. of L. union in the plant.

Union Rally For Strikers At Starkey

Farm laborers on strike against the Starkey Farms of Morrissville, Pa., were visited by a caravan of cars and trucks loaded with 1,000 union workers bearing gifts of food and clothing, on Sunday, July 14th. Union members from New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Maryland took part in the demonstration.

The workers who have been on strike heard Louis P. Marciante, President of New Jersey Federation of labor; and Leon B. Schachter, President of the Meat and Cannery Workers Union, Local 56, A. F. of L., of Camden, encourage them to continue their fight against living conditions which were as bad as any prevailing on cotton plantations of the South.

There are more than 250 workers on strike at this northern farm. They are members of Local 56 of Camden, N. J. which has been cooperating with the National Farm Labor Union for the past four years in the transfer of seasonal labor from the South to canneries where there are closed shop contracts.

The governor of Pennsylvania had ordered an investigation of the riot caused by armed strike breakers who attacked the workers with shotguns and bottles recently. Legal proceedings have been started against the company and the strike breakers. The union announced that five men have already been arrested and are awaiting trial.

Support for the strikers has been enlisted from the Workers Defense League, the American Civil Liberties Union, and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Hundreds Hear Union Speakers In Arkansas And Alabama

"The Union is on the march like never before since it started," said Vice President F. R. Betton after speaking a the Union's final mass meetings for the month of July.

Lake Village, Arkansas, and Reform, Alabama, were the scenes of the last two meetings. They were addressed by Vice President Betton and Captain Taylor, Organization Director.

Lake Village, one of the Union's newest locals which was recently organized by representatives of the Delta District Council, packed the New Hope Baptist Church with an enthusiastic crowd of over 300 people. Rev. H. N. Wilburn, Local President, who presided over the meetings, reported that many new members signed up on the spot. Delegations also came from other communities near Lake Village and asked for organizers to come in and set up locals in their sections.

In Reform, Ala., the windows of the Miles C. M. E. Chapel were crowded with people who were unable to squeeze their way into the meeting. President Hayes McCrary estimated that almost 500 members and friends tried to crowd into the church which seats only 250. A full delegation attended from the Stafford, Ala., local, including the Wells Quartette which entertained the meeting. President McCrary presided and introduced the National Vice President and Capt. Taylor.

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The Good Life At Delmo Homes

By DAVID S. BURGESS
"The Preacher"

Building Under Way

Construction on the new community building at the Lilbourn Negro project is now under way. The residents collected money from their own pockets to start the building.

Another building program is under way at the East Prairie Community Center. Over $200 has been contributed toward a building by the merchants of the town. Proceeds from a pie supper and the raffling of a new quilt was applied to the funds raised by the residents.

Quaker Work Camp Project

Eight college students sent to southeast Missouri by the American Friends Service Committee are living at Lilbourn in the manager's house while they work on the two building projects. These young men and women spend eight hours a day at the hard work of building the structures. Residents of both projects are cooperting by volunteering their labor toward the completion of the building program.

Bill Johnson A Corporation Director

Bill Johnson of Wardell, the Union organizer for southeast Missouri, has been appointed on the Board of Directors of the Delmo Housing Corp. This news became public when the projects councils met at Kennett a few weeks ago to discuss their problems with the Manager of the Delmo Housing Corp., Mr. Rodgers Harris of Benton.

Missouri Politics

Rev. Charles Wilson, who was one of the leaders of the St. Louis group who helped put over the project to save the Delmo housing for the people, is now running for Congress against Congressman Cochran. The Democratic primary will be held August 6th. in Missouri. Orville Zimmerman is unopposed for Congress in the 10th. Congressional District (southeast Missouri).

Labor Recruiters In Southeast Missouri

Labor agents recruiting workers to pick berries and work in canning plants in Michigan are active in Missouri. Handbills are being passed out telling about the big money that pickers can make in Michigan. No mention is made of wage rates, housing for workers, or cost of transportation to the jobs. Project residents and all Union members are warned against these labor recruiters.

Planters Want A Ceiling On Cotton Picking

News has come that certain big planters in southeast Missouri are anxious to impose a ceiling on wages of cotton pickers this fall. Remembering what Bill Johnson and other Union members did last fall, I believe that the ceiling can again be beaten in Missouri.

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USDA Office Open

James P. Davis, Administrative Officer for the U. S. Department of Agriculture, announces that his office has been opened at 802 W. 9th St., Little Rock, Ark. Mr. Davis will furnish information to all persons in the mid-South who are interested in the farm programs.

Veterans Who Follow Crops Don't Get As Much As Foreigners

Migrant farm laborers are again on the road. Major General Graves B. Erskine, Chief of the Re-Training and Re-Employment Administration, who deals with veterans' problems, says that ex-servicemen are going to get a worse deal than foreign labor imported during the war received.

The General called upon the Federal Government and the states to protect the working conditions of migrant farm labor.

During the war, Erskine said, many tens of thousands of foreign workers were brought into this country for agricultural and railroad jobs, under international agreements which guaranteed them minimum wages, decent housing, health and medical service, and payment of their transportation.

Now, native Americans are out for the same jobs. As many as four to five million of them are likely to take to the road for seasonal employment, largely in agriculture, Erskine pointed out. Many of them, he said, are ex-service men.

"They should be assured of at least the minimum standards which foreign workers had in our country," the general insisted. "Also, they should enjoy the standards equal to those of non-migratory workers in other occupations."

If necessary, legislation should be enacted to guarantee them a "square deal," Erskine maintained.

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Slick Labor Agents Make False Promises To Get Laborers

Labor agents recruiting workers for farms and canneries in the North, with false promises of high wages and good living conditions, are again flocking to the South.

Thousands of handbills were distributed in southeast Missouri during July, offering work and transportation to jobs in Michigan. The circulars did not state the wage rate, describe living conditions, or the cost to the worker for transportation to the job.

Before the war, it was the custom of labor agents to come South, recruit workers, and deliver them to the employers at $10 a head. The labor agents only interest was in collecting his money. Often the worker was left stranded with no place to live and no job. Employers usually had the labor agents to recruit twice as many workers as they needed in order to hold wages down and to prevent union organization.

We warn all workers and especially Union members, not to go off to distant places in the hope of getting good jobs unless the company offering work is willing to give a written guarantee of employment, to furnish sanitary housing, and to pay fair wages.

Workers who go on jobs provided through their Union are assured of work upon arrival, a house to live in, and union wage rates.

Farm Labor News

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National Labor Service

LABOR WILL KNOCK HIM OUT!

Plot To Keep Members Off Jobs Exposed

(Continued From Page One)

workers. Henderson made no objections at that time to hiring Union members from the South. He started his fight against the welfare of southern farm workers as soon as Russia got out of the war.

Henderson's Bad Record

Old time members of the Union will recall Henderson's attempt to take over, rule, and ruin the STFU in 1939 and 1940. He had but a few followers. In 1942, he abandoned all attempts to organize farm labor. Four locals that he had in southeast Missouri were on strike for 30¢ an hour and this man Henderson sold them down the river by calling off their strike in the interest of the "war effort," so he said. He has had no organization among farm workers since that time.

Henderson is now busily engaged in trying to break up the A. F. of L. Cannery Workers Union in California where the highest wage rate for cannery work in the United States is being paid.

New Locals Organized

Arkansas

Another local was organized near Gould, Ark., during the month of June. The following were elected as officers: Clarence Thompson, President; Fletcher White, Vice President; Andrew Johnson, Secretary.

A new local was organized recently in the Dark Corners community, near Cotton Plant, Ark. All the territory in the Cotton Plant area is now served by locals of the Union. Vice President Betton installed the charter for this local and the following officers were elected: Huston Tyler, President; M. J. Mathis, Vice President; B. T. Clemmon, Secretary. One of the youngest members of the new local is the Vice President's son, Lacy Betton, 21.

Missouri

A charter was granted to a local at Parma, Mo., during the first part of July. This local was organized by Prince Jones. The following officers were elected: Prince Jones, President; Ira Laws, Vice President; Blanchie Laws, Secretary.

THE FOUR FREEDOMS FUND

Oakwood Local No. 124 near Gould, Ark., is leading the field in contributions to the Four Freedoms Fund. Secretary H. N. Williams reported in July that $33 was raised by his members. Oakwood Local is the oldest in the Delta District Council. The Local now has 92 families who have paid in full and an even larger number who have not finished paying their 1946 dues.

Every dollar a member of the Union or a friend of the Union gives to the Four Freedoms Fund will be used to make the Farm Labor Conference in Washington next January a big success.

Have you made your contribution? Fill out the blank below and send it in at once with any amount you want to give.

FOUR FREEDOMS FUND

I WILL GIVE $_____now to the Four Freedoms Fund, and I will give

$_____more to the Four Freedoms Fund by_____(MONTH)_____(DAY)194—

My name is _____

I get my mail at_____(ROUTE BOX) _____(TOWN) _____(STATE)

I am a member of _____Local No._____

I am not a member, but I want to help. ( ) Check X.

SEND CHECK OR MONEY ORDER TO NATIONAL FARM LABOR UNION, BOX 443, MEMPHIS 1, TENN.

Here's List Of August Meetings

Oak Grove—August 4th.

The first Sunday in August, a mass meeting will be held at Oak Grove Church near Widener Junction, Arkansas. The meeting is being sponsored by Local No. 13. Speakers will be Capt. Barney B. Taylor, Organization Director; F. R. Betton, Vice President; and C. C. Watson, President of the Northeast Arkansas District Council. Refreshments will be served and all funds raised at the meeting will go toward paying expenses of a delegation from the local to the annual convention in Washington.

Brinkley, Arkansas—August 11th.

On the second Sunday, there will be a meeting in the town of Brinkley at the Presbyterian Church at 2 PM. The meeting is being put on by the two Union locals near Brinkley. Brager Bradley and L. B. Armstrong are in charge. Capt. Taylor and others will speak.

Edmondson, Arkansas—August 18th.

On the third Sunday in August, a mass meeting will be held at the Mary Baker Park in Edmondson. Capt. Taylor will be the featured speaker. Edmondson is one of the few "all Negro" towns remaining in the mid-South. For several years, members of the Union have been involved in a suit with Harold Weaver, the big plantation owner who took over their town for taxes back during the depression. It is the scene of the Tee Davis case which attracted nation wide attention. Taking part in the meeting will be a large group of white farm hands living on a plantation at nearby Lehi.

Boyle, Mississippi—August 25th.

On the fourth Sunday in August, Capt. Taylor is scheduled for an open air meeting near Boyle, Miss., in the heart of the Yazoo-Miss. delta. Local 69, of which B. J. Bennett is President, is sponsoring the meeting.

Throughout the month of August local meetings will be held nearly every night. Northeast Arkansas members will meet with Organization Director Taylor in their local meetings and plan the campaign to build up Union organization. The week of August 5th. to 8th. will mean a return engagement in southeast Missouri for Capt. Taylor. There are dates open for local meetings from August 15th. to August 31st. Local officers and organizers who want to hold special night meetings, should contact the office at once and set a date for their community.

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Some Doctors Refuse Health Cards To Keep Labor Picking Cotton

H. L. Mitchell, President of the National Farm Labor Union, has protested to the U. S. Public Health Service because members of the Union are being refused blood tests when they apply either to public health departments or private doctors in some counties in Arkansas.

Some doctors are in a conspiracy with large cotton planters, Mitchell charged, to prevent farm workers from going out of the state during off season to take jobs provided by the Union.

Mitchell said that he had reports from a large number of members stating that when they applied to any doctor for a Wassermann or Kahn test, the men and women were told, "You don't need a health card to pick cotton."

Clapp

Southern Tenant Farmers Union
H.L. Mitchell, President
166 Monroe Ave.
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For Immediate Release

A demand for an annual income of $625 a year for all farm labor in the cotton producing South has been raised by the Southern Tenant Farmers Union with headquarters in Memphis.

H.L. Mitchell, President of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union announced today that the plan for an annual wage for farm labor was worked out in a conference in Memphis July 13th. and 14th. and approved by the General Executive Council. He also revealed that 10,000 printed circulars are being distributed by the Union throughout the Delta regions along the Mississippi River.

As outlined in the circular, the proposed annual wage for farm labor is based on a rate of pay of not less than $5.00 per 10 hour day and shall include wage hands, sharecroppers, tenants, and working farm owners, who it is stated, are employed on an average of 125 days a year, producing and harvesting cotton.
Cotton picking wages of $3.50 per 100 lbs. is also called for in the handbill.

The proposed annual wage will give each farm family an income of $1.72 a day, 365 days a year or 43¢ a day for each person in a family of 4, to purchase food, clothing, and shelter. The American standard of living calls for an income of not less than $2,500 for an average family. The proposal for farm labor is one fourth of this amount.

Contracts guaranteeing each sharecropper and tenant an acreage large enough to produce a cash income of $625 a year is also advocated.

Small farm owners are urged to unite with the wage hands and sharecroppers in supporting the demand for an annual income and to recognize that they are competing against low wage rates and selling their products in a market controlled by the big

MORE

farm operators.

Mitchell said that his organization was seeking a bottom on farm wages in the South and at the same time, organizations of planters were calling upon the War Food Administration to set a ceiling on farm wages in the Delta plantation area. The Arkansas Agricultural Council and the Delta Council of Mississippi have petitioned WFA to set a ceiling wage.

According to Mitchell, a group of planters in Louisiana is reported to be forming a combination to place a ceiling of $1.00 per day on wages paid farm labor in that state.

Mitchell said that he believed the plantation owners were very short sighted in their policy of keeping wages low and that they had lost thousands of workers and that others will leave the plantations too if they are not guaranteed a wage the year round which will provide a bare living.

Agri

Washington Committee
Southern Conference on Human Welfare

Prepared by Mrs. Constance Daniel

THE STORY OF FAO

as related by the New York Times in a series of articles covering the recent inaugural conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

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LONDON, October 9 — Excerpt from story wirelessed from London.

This month's meetings in Quebec of the food and agriculture organization of the United Nations organization will be of supreme importance to world economics, Philip Noel-Baker, Minister of State, said today. For that reason, he said, he will make every effort to attend the gathering as leader of the British delegation.

He said the gathering would be the first of those to be held by the numerous offshoots of the UNO and would establish precedents for the success or failure of other groups that will be set up.

At a press conference he said that the public should never forget that 63 per cent of the world's population lived off the land or from fisheries.

WASHINGTON, October 13 — Excerpt from address broadcast by Clinton P. Anderson, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture and head of the U.S. delegation to the FAO Conference.

Secretary Anderson declared that even in the United States "every third person falls short of having a really adequate diet. The great fact of hunger has for thousands of years been regarded as inevitable - just one of those things that we must endure, like floods and droughts and hailstorms.

"But today there are two scientific facts which make it impossible for us to go on taking hunger for granted," he continued.

"One is the discovery of the atomic bomb. With the atomic bomb, another world war might literally ruin civilization itself. We know now that we must not have another war. And that means we must not permit the pangs of hunger to bring about those basic fears and greeds which result in war. Because civilization cannot stand another war, it cannot tolerate hunger anywhere in the world.

"The second fact in this picture is that for the first time in history, science and technology have developed to the point where hunger is unnecessary. If all the combined know-how in the world were applied to all the physical resources of the world, we could produce enough food and fiber for everybody.

To American farmers Secretary Anderson promised the FAO would try to "bring together the countries that are desperately hungry, and those which are concerned about finding markets for everything they know how to produce.

"There are some who fear competition from a general development in country after country. My answer to them is that human needs are so far from being filled that every development leads to a dozen or a hundred more until every single desire of man is fully satisfied. And that time I trust will never come.

NEW YORK, October 16 -- Editorial "Against Tomorrow's Hunger".

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, opening its charter session at Quebec today, holds out no immediate hope for those countless millions on this hungry earth who do not know where their next full meal is coming from. But if the member nations take FAO seriously the hope for adequate food supplies in years to come is bright. FAO stems from the Hot Springs Conference of May, 1943. There was no disagreement as to the general picture brought out at that conference, which was that mankind hasn't been having enough to eat. The so-called advanced countries, using scientific methods and reinforcing their agriculture with effective industry and transportation, do fairly well in normal times. The backward countries, trying to support about two-thirds of the world's population, have never done well by Occidental standards. War made the situation worse. It did not create it.

If a sharp distinction must be drawn between the "economy of scarcity" and the "economy of plenty" FAO is headed toward the latter. Its reports during its interim stage pointed out the fallacy of "surplus" food in a world of empty or half-empty stomachs. FAO looks toward larger production of most foods, better distribution, more scientific processing and handling, better education for those who eat as well as those who produce, improvement in qualities and balances as well as in bulk.

FAO is not an economic security council with authority to see that these things are done. It must depend on the good-will of the member nations. It may run into snags if it proposes to break down tariff barriers or to bring a plentiful supply into what have been restricted and profitable markets. The modern disciples of Dr. Malthus may shake their heads at the prospect of East Asia populations expanding because of a little more rice, a bit of fruit, a sliver of meat added to the present diet. The problem of food is woven into the fabric of world relations. FAO will not solve it at the Quebec sessions. Yet a beginning will be made. For almost the first time the eating habits of mankind will be viewed as a whole.

QUEBEC, October 17 -- Excerpt from President Truman's message to the FAO Conference.

If we had not won our victory through common effort and common sacrifice, a meeting such as this would have been impossible. There would have been no room in the world for candor and decency and mutual helpfulness.

Certainly there would have been no room for an international organization dedicated to these two simple propositions: First, that people in all parts of the world can and should have plenty of food and of other products of the farm; and second, that the world's people who draw wealth from the earth and sea can and should enjoy their fair share of the good things of life.

These are high goals. Neither the world nor any single nation has as yet even come close to achieving either. It will take time to reach them. Creation of a Food and Agriculture Organization in itself will not be enough; we must look to the patient cooperation of the family of nations through FAO and other means. But the work you are beginning at Quebec is an essential step forward, and a long one.

QUEBEC, October 19 -- Excerpt from article by N.Y. Times correspondent Walter H. Waggoner, quoting Philip J. Noel Baker and Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai.

Speaking for the delegation of which he is leader, Philip J. Noel Baker, British Minister of State, outlined a program for the FAO which, in effect, would have the organization devote itself to first things first. In this way he sought to bring together the two positions that have developed in regard to the function and purpose of the FAO.

"It is sometimes said that a pessimist is one who, of two evils, chooses both," said Mr.Baker. "I believe that, in this present circumstance, we do not have to make this dangerous choice - science or action - which these pundits say we confront.

"It is not a true dilemma. On the contrary, we can and we should choose both courses, provided we do not make our program as a whole too big. Let everything we do be sound; let us build up our foundation services, research, statistics, the immediate short-term information services, the long-term service of education.

"But also let us take on the immediate tasks. FAO must be equally concerned for the little man. The great mass of the world's farm people are poor in health, wealth, training and resources."

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai, agent general for India in the United States and Indian delegate, called attention to his country's primitive agriculture and proposed that the FAO would be performing its function merely by providing India with the necessary farm supplies and scientific knowledge to enable it to improve its own food situation in the immediate post-war period.

QUEBEC, October 20 — Excerpt from article by Walter H. Waggoner reflecting views of farm organizations on controlling flow of agricultural products.

A world agency to control the flow and use of agricultural products moving in international trade was proposed today by the four leaders of the farm organizations advising the United States delegation to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization.

With surprising unanimity, Homer L. Brinkley, president of the National Council of Farm Cooperatives; Albert S. Goss, master of the National Grange; Edward A. O'Neal, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, and James G. Patton, president of the National Farmers Union, endorsed an international control body that would store surpluses of farm commodities from producing countries for distribution to consuming rations suffering shortages of food.

The group told a news conference that it believed some degree of world control would be necessary if markets for the output of full agricultural production were to be found and backward countries were to be fed.

Role Likened to CCC's

The agency proposed by this group of the United States' most influential farm leaders would, in effect, be a Commodity Credit Corporation on a world-wide scale. It would play much the same role in stabilizing prices, assisting distribution and encouraging production as that performed by the CCC as a unit of the Department of Agriculture in domestic farm economy, it would embody much of the authority and many of the functions of the American agency.

One of the methods for controlling the flow of international commodities would be the development of a pool of produce, similar to the ever-normal granary program established in the United States to handle the vast surplus of wheat mounting in 1934 and in 1935. Although confined to a single crop in the United States, the international pool would include all crops moving across national lines.

QUEBEC, October 22 — Excerpt from article by Walter H. Waggoner, quoting Australian, Chinese, and Indian views of FAO's program.

Prof. J. G. Crawford, director of post-war reconstruction in the Australian Department of Agriculture, expressed his government's view before a meeting of the marketing committee with the assertion that it "would be a mistake to ignore the possibility of surpluses."

He told the group that the "internal stability" of some countries depended on international trade and the decision as to what might be done with surpluses, and added:

"The success or failure of this conference might well be determined by whether ways are found to link surpluses with wants."

With this clear-cut stand, Australia lined herself up with the other nations, mostly advanced agricultural producers and exporters, that have held from the start that the authority of the FAO must not be restricted to research and dissemination of scientific and technical advice on farm output.

This group maintains that the FAO should also be empowered at least to recommend such international operating bodies as the World Commodity Pooling and Distribution Agency approved Saturday by the four farm leaders of the United States.

Dr. P.W. Tsou, leader of the Chinese delegation, contended that the principal purpose of the FAO, at least for the present time, should be the improvement of agricultural science and farm technique through research and education, so that a country with a primitive agricultural economy could lift its own standard of living and nutritional level.

He pictured the FAO as bearing the relation to all member nations that the United States Department of Agriculture has with the States, and that its chief concern should be agricultural production.

V.K.R.V. Rao, economist and adviser to the Indian delegation, urged before the marketing group that surplus foods of one country be sold to "vulnerable groups" in needy countries below the market price.

QUEBEC, October 29 -- Excerpt from article presenting Sir John Boyd Orr's proposals for FAO.

Sir John Boyd Orr, Director-General of FAO, made a strong plea at his initial press conference for world control of food and farm products. He aims at a level of production guaranteeing an adequate price for the farmer and ample supplies for a world now two-thirds undernourished.

Simultaneously, he appealed for cooperation from all nations to attain the objective of FAO - ending hunger throughout the world.

"The FAO is the answer to the atomic bomb," he exclaimed. "If the countries can't get together on the simple goal of this organization, then they can never get together on anything."

He added that the food organization could not allow itself to become merely an archives of scientific fact and knowledge, in which it would "rotate in vacuo." Its job, he said, will be to compile a picture of the world food situation and say to the appropriate authority, "here are the things which urgently want to be done."

Need for Liaison Stressed

"And it is the duty of the FAO," he continued, "to go to the International Trade Organization, for example - the people who work the levers to make

things move - and see if we can't get these things done."

Sir John vigorously assailed the "nineteenth century economics of scarcity," which he said dominated some parts of the world at this time, and called for an end to the policy of producing food on a scale sufficient to meet only the economic demand.

"The world is able to consume all the food that the world can produce," he declared. "It will be up to the world organizations, such as the Economic and Social Council, to make arrangements so that the people of the world can have sufficient purchasing power to buy this food."

To the question of how the financial arrangements would be made to assure the necessary purchasing power, Sir John replied:

"Finances won't stop us. Everything that is physically possible and is desirable, is also financially possible."

He predicted that the world would once again see a surplus of wheat, perhaps in 1947 or 1948, and added the hope that a world pool of the commodity would be established for such use as the world organization would care to put it. When this mechanism was set up, he explained, wheat would be taken off the market when the price fell below a certain figure and the surplus could be either "turned into bacon and eggs" by using it as feed, or held as a reserve against a shortage in the future.

Although recognizing the need for differentials to cover costs of production and distribution in different areas, the FAO director said that the time would "ultimately" come when a single price for wheat would prevail throughout the world, "a bottom below which the price could not fall."

One Price Benefits Explained

"With this kind of arrangement," he observed, "the farmer in the Middle West would know what his wheat is going to sell at."

By raising this price, he pointed out, the production of wheat could be increased, and by lowering it, the farmers for whom it would be uneconomic to produce at the new price would reduce their acreage of wheat and plant it to foods in greater demand.

He diagnosed the ills of European agriculture as being those based on the preparation for war, and a desire to be self-sufficient in a world constantly threatened by war. These people, exclaimed the world's food administrator, must be convinced that in a peaceful and secure world they must increase their production of vegetables, meat and milk, and grow less wheat and potatoes.

Wheat and sugar, he said, can easily be shipped into consuming areas, so they should be produced where they can be grown most economically.

Sir John said that the FAO could only recommend to individual governments what course they should follow in attacking hunger within their borders, but

he called upon public opinion to see to it that the governments followed the FAO's advice. These advices, he said, would be made available to the press to enable the people to know what their government was doing and what it was not doing.

"Governments may accept the program of the FAO and make flowery speeches about it," he declared, "and yet not carry out its objectives. But the governments must report back to the FAO what they are doing. Thus, the organization can go to the governments and say, "Here's what you've said you would do, and here's what you've done, which isn't very much. Now what are you going to do about it?"

It is essential, he maintained, that the FAO first get its objectives "across to the masses in the street."

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THE QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF ECONOMICS

November, 1944

POSTWAR SOLDIER SETTLEMENT

SUMMARY

Scope of the paper, 1. — Historical background, 2. — Experience after World War I: United States, 4; Canada, 6; Australia, New Zealand, United Kingdom, 8. — Resettlement and rehabilitation in the United States: unemployment, 9; rural distress, 10; the Farm Security Administration projects, 11. — Other FSA opportunities: rehabilitation loans, 16; tenant purchase loans, 16. — The new legislation: Canada, 17; New Zealand, 20; United States, 20. — Limited value of certain provisions of the "G. I. Bill": present owners, 22; prospective tenants, 24; prospective buyers, 24. — The legislative background: United States, 27; Canada, 28. — Need for soldier settlement, 29. — Loan values, 31. — Tenant purchase as an alternative, 33. — Concluding remarks, 34.

The seventy-eighth Congress of the United States, in Public Law 346, technically designated as the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, popularly known as the "G. I. Bill," approved June 22, 1944, provides that any veteran with the necessary "ability and experience" who selects himself a farm on which there is "reasonable likelihood" of success may, if he can find a willing lender, have a loan to buy a farm, or livestock or machinery, or to erect or repair farm buildings, underwritten up to half its amount, the guarantee not to exceed $2,000. The Canadian government passed its Veteran's Land Act in 1942, and New Zealand acted shortly afterwards. What other countries have passed or plan to pass such legislation, the authors have not undertaken to discover, but no doubt there are several of them.

The administration of the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 is placed in the hands of the Veterans' Administration. Its predecessor, the Veterans' Bureau, had charge of the veterans' settlement program that followed the last war. By 1925 very few of the subjects of that ill-conceived and ill-fated effort were still on the land. The Canadians did much better — more than two-thirds

of the veterans handled under its 1919 Soldier Settlement Act were still on the land six years after the war, and nearly a half twenty-five years afterwards. United Kingdom, Australian and New Zealand experience was more like that in the United States.

The new legislation is said by its proponents in this and other countries to avoid the mistakes made after the last war. It is the purpose of this article to consider the nature of the problem of veteran placement on the land, the provisions that are needed to make such placement successful, the adequacy of the Servicemen's Act of 1944 and how to apply it to make it best serve the ends desired, and finally to assess the merits and shortcomings of this and other pending and proposed veteran land-settlement measures. In connection with this analysis, the authors will draw upon the extensive experience which this country has had since 1933 in attempts at settlement and rehabilitation under the Subsistence Homesteads Act, the Resettlement Administration, and its successor the Farm Security Administration.

Historical Background

Soldier land settlement did not, of course, begin with World War I. The Roman precedent for it is not without interest today. Caesar's successors during the Empire carried the practice of rewarding veterans by grants of land to greater lengths even than he, and conquering or victor nations since then seem usually to have done what the Romans did. To most of them, as to Caesar, placing soldiers on the land combined a "logical" and an obvious solution of several problems. The soldiers had helped to conquer the territory; why not give them a piece of it? Moreover, who would better defend and preserve it than a body of landholders who had just won it in battle? The returning soldiers seem always to have been a social problem. Especially were they a problem after years of continuous war. To give them land and get them away from the centers of political strife was good strategy. Giving them money could only be a stopgap, anyway; and besides, the governments were usually in financial straits after a war. If the war lasted more than a year or two, it was an easy step to begin offering land as an inducement to enlistment.

Another aspect of the subject, we shall have occasion to note later, has a still more familiar undertone. While the men of Rome were away fighting for long years, agriculture decayed — espe-

cially did the number of small independent landholders decline. Several explanations have been offered for this — we will not go into them. Getting these lands back into smallholdings again, with veterans as the operators, seemed to be a solution for this problem too. Accordingly, some whole communities were made veterans' settlements. The poet Virgil, so the story runs, had to move to make way for one of these settlements.

With most of a continent open to conquest and exploitation, what more natural than that the colonial governments of North America, and later the United States, should give their lands as bounties to returning soldiers, and presently offer land as a reward for enlistment. As early as 1679, Virginia made grants to get land settled by men able to defend it. George Washington went down the Ohio River in 1770, and staked out a 200,000 acre tract that was to reward an expedition of 200 men into the wilderness. Land bounties were given to soldiers after King Philip's War and after the French and Indian War — 50 to 5,000 acres, according to rank, in the latter case. The Continental Congress, and some of the colonies, promised bounties of land for military service during the Revolution. The military land-bounty acts of 1811–12 set aside a special Military Tract between the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers.

At this stage, however, a new element entered — speculation in land. Most of the bounty land in the Military Tract had before long passed into the hands of members of Congress, high officials in the army, and other large speculators. The nation was so anxious to push its frontier westward that it had begun distributing land far in advance of settlement. It became still more liberal with its grants after the Mexican War, and by 1855 any veteran of any war from the Revolution on, or his heirs, could obtain a warrant for 160 acres of land anywhere in the surveyed public domain. Few veterans, however, actually moved onto their lands. Warrants were bought and sold freely on the eastern markets at prices from 30 cents to $10 per acre. Land speculation had figured importantly in the excesses that preceded the panic of 1837. It rose to another height in the 'fifties, and played its part in the collapse of 1857.

For this reason, but more because of Southern opposition, public policy then sharply reversed itself. In June, 1858, the government stopped issuing military land warrants, and the right to obtain them expired with the passage of the Homestead Act in 1862, which required five years of residence on the land, or the

payment of $1.25 per acre. Ex-soldiers, however, were allowed to substitute military service for residence down to a minimum of one year. A good many soldiers took advantage of this provision shortly after the war, and more became settlers during the severe depression years after 1873. Now appeared in an important way for the first time the notion of getting people "back to the land" as a solution of unemployment. In 1877 three bills were introduced into Congress proposing to assist the unemployed in getting out of the cities onto the land. None of these bills was passed, but with each recurring business recession the number of homestead entries increased. The homestead laws were presently modified to allow 320 and 640 acres of grazing land.

Experience after World War I

By the end of the first World War, very little good farming land was left in the public domain. Nevertheless, Congress and the public did discuss proposals to help veterans obtain farms; and if there had been severe unemployment in 1919, Congress probably would have hurried through some vigorous measures. In February, 1919, it passed laws not only assuring veterans the general rights of homestead entry on newly opened public land, including Indian reservation land, but also giving them a 90-day running start on all other entrants. Then in 1922 the veterans were allowed to substitute their time of military service for residence requirement.

More important than these public-land provisions for veterans after World War I were two other developments, in the main new to the United States. The first was that three States — South Dakota, Oregon and California — extended credit to veterans to enable them to buy land. In South Dakota, the credit took the form of a joint loan from the state rural credit board, secured by a second mortgage. In Oregon, the soldier's welfare board made loans up to $3,000 and 75 per cent of the purchase price of the land, on a 28-year amortization basis at six per cent interest. The California loans could go as high as $7,500.

The second development was an importation from Europe, patterned after the smallholdings programs of Denmark, Germany, England and several other countries. There the objectives had been to convert tenants and farm laborers into landowners. The method was to purchase large estates, subdivide them, build the necessary farm buildings, schoolhouses, roads, etc., and sell the

farms thus created on long-term payment plans. These European programs achieved the end of greatly decreasing the amount of tenancy. The holdings resulting, however, are pretty small, and their mortgage obligations have been reduced very little from one generation to the next. In 1918 Secretary of the Interior Lane proposed a similar program for the returning soldiers, but Congress and the public were not ready for it. Secretary Lane's own State of California did adopt the suggestion to the extent of buying land and laying it out in a colony.[1]

It remained for the Rehabilitation Division of the Veterans' Bureau really to try out the smallholdings and colony idea. The Veterans' Bureau was given responsibility for vocational guidance of disabled soldiers and sailors. In connection with this, it undertook, very wisely, to retrain them for all sorts of occupations. Some of these trainees wanted to go into agriculture. In fact, three types of agricultural employment were provided for in the training program: (*a*) scientific and technical agricultural occupations, (*b*) agricultural industry and trade, and (*c*) agricultural production — that is, actual farming. The senior author, then in charge of agricultural economics teaching at the University of Minnesota, helped plan and conduct the training for a few score of men for the first two of these employments. The subsequent records of the men so trained have been excellent.

Those wanting to go into farming had the disadvantage that in most cases they had no farms of their own. The Veterans' Bureau undertook to supply this deficiency by buying tracts of land, laying it out into farms, and selling it on long-term payments — after the European smallholding pattern. The men were kept in school only till their farms were ready, and given the rest of their training under a leader on their projects. The training included not only technology, but record-keeping and budgets. Credit was advanced also for enough livestock and equipment to enable the veterans to begin farming.

Unfortunately, no public reports have been made which show what happened on these projects. The annual reports of the Veterans' Bureau show only the number of persons in all the rehabilitation programs combined at different periods. The peak was reached in April, 1922. The numbers fell off rapidly after that, and by the end of 1924 the training programs had been in large part termi-

1. See Elwood Mead, Helping Men Own Farms, New York, 1920.

nated. By then most of the veterans had found employment in expanding industry and trade.

The senior author assisted briefly in a study of three of these projects in Minnesota in the winter of 1922-23. He prepared two reports on his study, a confidential one for the guidance of those in the Veterans' Bureau in charge of the administration of soldier settlement projects, the other a report that could be (and was) used as testimony in the hearings then being conducted on charges of maladministration in the Veterans' Bureau. The soldier settlement projects were under attack. In his confidential report, the writer predicted that within a year from the date when the training period allowances were cut off, most of the men would leave the projects. The forecast proved to be correct. Within a few years, only a handful of veterans were still living on them. The reasons for it were, on the one hand, that the income from their small-scale farming operations would not support their families at the level to which they had been accustomed while on training allowances, and, on the other, that most of them could get jobs in cities that would. Moreover, two of the projects were on new lands in cut-over areas, and the delights of modern civilization were not readily at hand. The third was a poultry-farming project near Minneapolis, which had very great accessibility to city delights, and also to city occupations.

The cut-over farms were small in the first place — around 40 acres — and only part of the land was cleared in advance. The poultry farms were planned for 1,000–1,500 hens. A million or so of farm families in this country then had incomes less than these farms afforded; but they had grown up with them, and had become inured to them by generations of squalid living. These veteran families had not been so inured, and they did not propose to become so. They appealed to Congress when they were told to get ready to take care of themselves shortly (except for the disability allowances which many of them had), and moved to other employments when they were taken off training.

Not all the projects had exactly this same experience. A few of them fared appreciably better, and a few families in a number of them stuck to their holdings and made a good record. But the Minnesota experience furnishes a good sample of the whole.

The Canadian soldier settlement program was more ambitious, and appears to have come much nearer to being a pronounced

success. No doubt some will insist that it really was a success. Around 24,000 veterans were placed on farms, and twenty-five years later 11,000 of these, or their families, were still on their farms. The 13,000 others had either voluntarily abandoned their farms, or their agreements with the government were cancelled by the government because of unsatisfactory performance, or they had died and their families were unable to carry on under the agreement. In 1943, about half of the 11,000 had completed their payments to the government and had obtained titles. The rate of repayment has accelerated since the outbreak of the war. The government's original investment in the scheme was $109,000,000. To this must be added the administrative costs and considerable unpaid interest. Against these costs and losses are actual recoveries of $76,000,000 and book accounts conservatively valued at $20,000,000. The net cost to the government should not, however, be charged against only the 11,000 settlers who paid out their contracts or are still in process of doing so. Mr. Gordon Murchison, Director of the Canadian Soldier Settlement and Veteran's Land Act, is on solid ground when he writes as follows:

> The real test of state-sponsored land settlement is also found in the number of veterans who make use of land settlement as a stabilizing factor in giving them an opportunity to get their war experiences out of their systems; and if they are not temperamentally or otherwise adapted to agriculture as a lifetime occupation they can use land settlement as a springboard into other trades or occupations when the best available opportunity presents itself. It is true that those who decide not to remain permanently in agriculture cause considerable waste motion on the part of the administration, and considerable loss to the public treasury, if the success of the operation is gauged only by the cold figures of an orthodox balance sheet; but, on the other hand, there is an asset in having these citizens soundly integrated into some other part of the national system where they become quite successful. This was the essential feature of the operations under the Soldier Settlement Act of 1919.[2]

The loans to Canadian veterans for land settlement averaged $4,300 per settler. The maxima were $4,500 for the purchase of land, $2,000 for the purchase of livestock, and $1,000 for buildings and improvements. The veteran was required to make a cash payment of 10 per cent of the purchase price of the farm, and to maintain his family till returns came in from the land. In 1922, however, interest charges were waived up to a maximum of four years. The first soldier settlement legislation in 1917 was directed at the

2. From a letter dated August 29, 1944.

Crown lands in western Canada. The 1919 law permitted settlement in suitable areas anywhere in Canada. This made necessary the purchase of farms in the eastern provinces. The holdings purchased or established on Crown lands averaged around 200 acres.[3]

Under the Australian program, the central government furnished the money for loans, and the individual states the lands. The emphasis was on smallholding types of enterprises, like pig raising, and on coöperative buying and selling. The New Zealand program provided a wider range of farming opportunities, including fruit-growing and sheep-raising, and loans up to £750 in special cases.

Nothing prevented the grouping of the veterans into colonies under the Canadian program, but clearly this was not an essential feature of it. The same was true of the Australian and New Zealand programs. The program developed in the United Kingdom was conceived mostly in terms of settling veterans on smallholdings, but two kinds of colonies were also organized in a small way. On one type, the estate purchased for this purpose was subdivided, after a probation period, into smallholdings operated under the supervision of a director who also continued to operate a central farm. On the other, each veteran was allotted only a cottage and garden land, and worked for wages, plus a share of the profits, on the one big farm.

There is not much more that can be said about these several soldier settlement schemes. One can read the laws under which they operated, and descriptions, usually rose-tinted, of their organization and early operation. But no one has yet written the accounts of their dissolution or of their absorption into their communities. Those in charge have apparently had no desire to supply posterity with a record that all might read. Perhaps the following sentence from the Annual Report of the Director of the Veterans' Bureau (1923), except that it applies to soldier rehabilitation in general, may serve as a general obituary notice for all of these ventures: "The history of rehabilitation activities has been the story of a nation's generosity to its disabled veterans unsurpassed in any

3. See E. J. Ashton, "Soldier Land Settlement in Canada," this JOURNAL, Vol. XXXIX (1925). Dr. Robert England writes that 1528 of these veterans have retired their loans in full since the outbreak of the present war. Dr. England discusses soldier settlement in Canada in his recent book, Discharged, a Commentary on Civil Reëstablishment of Veterans in Canada, Toronto, 1943.

country or at any time" (p. 392). This does not mean, however, that even more generosity, but of a better sort, was not warranted.

Resettlement and Rehabilitation, 1930–44

The full historical record from the Rome of Caesar through the last postwar, or, more narrowly, from the Revolution onward in this country, shows certain major shifts. The first is from major emphasis on getting conquered lands occupied and defended toward getting the returning soldier or sailor a farm, if he wanted one. Accordingly, after the last big war, Canada, the United States, and several other countries helped the veterans to obtain farms outside the public domain, as well as within it. This meant the substitution of liberal credit for a gift of land. The second change is the recognition that if the veteran is to succeed as a farmer, he must have buildings, livestock, and equipment as well as land, and this meant still more credit. The third is the acceptance of the idea that the serviceman, especially if he has been disabled, may need retraining or reconditioning for farming, or for that matter, many other occupations. Fourth, is the attempt to fit the European smallholding program to the needs of veterans. The last three of these developments mainly followed the first World War. Fifth, the placement of veterans on the land as a way of taking them out of the breadlines in time of unemployment. This dates back to the post-Civil War period. It did not figure importantly in soldier settlement activities in the 'twenties. It came out strongly in the depression of the 'thirties, for veterans and for workers generally. (We must not entirely forget about the Bonus Army.) And it has contributed to the new 1944 legislation for veterans.

The contribution of unemployment to the resettlement program, initiated soon after 1933, and the related rehabilitation program, and the background which these furnish for the administration of the Act of 1944, need also to be examined briefly. The movement to relieve unemployment by moving families out of the cities was started as early as 1931. Hearings were held the following winter by the Labor Committee of the House on a bill with this object sponsored by Mr. Bernarr McFadden, who had been running a series of articles and editorials on the subject in the magazine, Liberty. Mr. McFadden had been maintaining a soup kitchen in New York City, and was tiring of it. It was a committee created at Mr. Roosevelt's suggestion, consisting of Senator Bank-

head, Mr. Hugh MacRae (of Castlehaines, South Carolina), Mr. Bernarr McFadden, and Dr. Alvin Johnson, which drafted the original form of the Subsistence Homestead Act passed in 1933.[4] Mr. M. L. Wilson, the first administrator of this Act, was a strong advocate of part-time farming, and at least a moderate proponent of back-to-the-land for the unemployed, but he had ideas about several other kinds of resettlement that were needed. The forty-five projects which he approved, before resigning within a year because of irreconcilable differences with Secretary Ickes, in whose department the program had been placed, represented a wide range of groups and conditions: a combined factory and garden project for Jewish needle workers from New York City; farms for mountaineers whose land had been enclosed within Shenandoah Park; and part-time farming plots for coal miners in Iowa, and for urban workers on the outskirts of Birmingham, Alabama. It was Mr. Wilson's idea that the limited fund of $25,000,000 should be used to test out a wide variety of projects and hypotheses. On perhaps eight it was assumed that the families would make most of their living at farming, on thirty-seven, that they would make most of it outside of agriculture. In effect, virtually all of them proved to be part-time farming projects, because of underestimating the amount of land needed; and perhaps it is better to call many of them simply housing projects, since most of the families that settled on them did very little farming.

Not all of the hardship cases in the depression of the 'thirties were in cities. A million or more of farm families were in desperate condition because of the droughts of 1933 and 1934, or because of the very low prices of farm products in 1930–32, or because they had lost their part-time jobs in industry. The Emergency Relief Administration (hereafter referred to as FERA) had undertaken to care for these, along with destitute city families, by outright grants. But presently it came to be realized that many of these farm families needed only loans until they could grow a new crop, or could get some more livestock, or until prices recovered. Accordingly, loans came to be substituted for grants in many cases, and the term "rehabilitation" came to be applied to these loans, borrowed, perhaps unconsciously, from the experience with the disabled veterans of World War I.

4. The senior author was designated as a member of the committee, but had nothing to do with the drafting of the bill.

For many of these families, it was agreed, making them a loan was useless as long as they continued farming on land that was too poor, or too nearly arid. For these the Land Policy Section of the AAA developed its submarginal land-buying program. Mr. Roosevelt indicated that he would make $40,000,000 available for this purpose. Between December, 1933, and April, 1934, a total of $103,390,000 was available for this purpose from funds of the Emergency Public Works Corporation and Drought Relief Funds. The funds that had been voted for relief had so few restrictions upon them that they could be used for almost anything that would contribute to relief. The Comptroller's Office of that time, however, ruled that buying submarginal land was going too far. In March, 1935, $50,000,000 of these funds were withdrawn. But subsequently Mr. Roosevelt made $20,000,000 available out of funds of the ERA Act of 1935. Actually, therefore, $48,930,000 was provided for the purchase of land for resettlement purposes. The buying organization that was created when the larger funds were available took options on over five million acres of land in the Great Plains alone. In the final count, options were taken on 9,734,000 acres, but the $48,930,000 available actually brought only two-thirds of the land optioned.

Buying these submarginal farms, however, was not enough — what was to become of the farm families? The Subsistence Homesteads could receive only a few of them. The fact is that, although there was much discussion of resettling these families, little was actually done. Something in the nature of a resettlement program did begin to evolve, however, and in 1935, a Resettlement Administration, (hereafter referred to as RA), was created under the direction of Dr. Rexford G. Tugwell. This agency and its successor in 1937, the Farm Security Administration (hereafter referred to as FSA), eventually set up one hundred fifty resettlement projects (in addition to the forty-five Subsistence Homestead Projects transferred from the Department of Interior). The funds available for these projects were the Subsistence Homestead Funds and transfers from the appropriations for emergency relief. In most of the States, the FERA had set up a state Rural Rehabilitation Corporation and given it a quota out of the national relief grant. When these corporations became inactive with the organization of the FSA, they were allowed to retain their funds, and these were drawn upon for settlement projects within these States. In a report

prepared by it for the use of the Cooley investigating committee in the summer of 1943, the FSA classified its 195 projects according to the agency originating them as follows:

Subsistence Homesteads	45
RA	77
State Rural Rehabilitation Corporations	65
FSA	8
	195

The same report also classifies the 126 developed projects (other than Subsistence Homesteads) into 62 *community* projects, with 4,766 family units on 369,000 acres, and 64 *scattered-farm* projects, with 4,842 family units and 522,000 acres. The first ideas of the resettlement administrators ran very largely to colonies where the families could have the advantage of a community life and could buy and sell and own equipment coöperatively. The studies that had been made of land settlement in the Department of Agriculture by Dr. L. C. Gray and others had shown, however, that in actual operation the settlers made the most progress who had taken up holdings within, or on the edges of, already established communities.[5] They had found roads already built and schools and other institutions already established. Dr. Gray's group brought these judgments with them when the Land Policy Section was transferred from AAA to RA, and they induced Dr. Tugwell and his group to include scattered farms, or "infiltration" projects, as well as colonies.[6] Of the 62 community projects, only 19 were definitely cooperative in over-all administration, and part of these were leasing associations — that is, associations in which the families jointly took over the lease of a plantation and then operated it as individual farms.

These projects had been under some form of attack almost from the inception of the program under Subsistence Homesteads auspices. The opposition grew steadily, and in 1942 Congress

5. John D. Black and L. C. Gray, Land Settlement and Colonization in the Great Lakes States, U. S. D. A. Bulletin 1295 (1925); W. A. Hartman and John D. Black, Economic Aspects of Land Settlement in the Cut-over Region of the Great Lakes States, U. S. D. A. Circular 160 (1931).

6. Later Dr. Gray's group was transferred to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, and thence to the Soil Conservation Service. It had a land purchase program of its own, the object of which was to recondition the land and reorganize it into feasible economic operating units. Its first grant for this purpose was $25,000,000 in 1936.

voted that they all be closed out and the farms sold, except for those that could properly be transferred to other agencies. A year later the FSA reported that 42 had been transferred to the National Housing Agency and one to the Interior Department, that 26 of them were undeveloped projects, and that selling was under way or completed on 72 of the remaining 126. But this was not fast enough to satisfy Congress, and the FSA was vigorously attacked for its delayed action in the 1943 hearings on its annual appropriation. The Cooley Bill now awaiting action by Congress provides for a continuation of the rehabilitation loan program, and the Tenant Purchase program, but asks that the "Farmer's Home Corporation," which under this bill is to take over the FSA, "do all things necessary to complete the liquidation as expeditiously as possible of all resettlement projects," including most of those transferred the year before to the National Housing Agency.

The reasons for what has happened to the resettlement projects are all important for soldier settlement. These projects are being closed out because:

1. Most of them were not very successful. The reasons for this were:

(*a*) They were started in a period when agriculture was relatively depressed. There was a period of good recovery in 1935–37, but it was short-lived. The year 1939 was only a little better for agriculture than 1935. By 1942 a majority of the families on the projects were doing pretty well, but the opponents of the program had already won their battle.

(*b*) Very many of the holdings would not yield enough income to support a family and make payments against the advances. They were too small or the land was too unproductive. They were "smallholdings," not family farms.

(*c*) Not enough industrial and other employment was within reach to provide supplementary income.

(*d*) When such employment was available, too many of the farmers neglected their farming. Part-time farming — that is, combining two ways of making a living, one of which is farming — although highly esteemed by a small percentage of the population, does not prove in practice to be acceptable to the rest. Given a chance for a full-time job, they let their farming subside. Left to themselves, many families drift into part-time farming by one course or another; but *selecting* families to make a successful part-

time farming colony is extremely difficult. One can expect the turnover to be large at the best.

(*e*) The administration of the resettlement program as a whole did not measure up to the requirements of such a difficult undertaking, and the management of some of the individual projects was altogether inadequate. One reason for the inadequacy of the handling of the subsistence homestead projects and some others was their transfer from agency to agency, with drastic changes in policy in some cases. Another was a considerable lack of practical sense in many places in the administration organization. Inexperience was to be expected — only a few people in the United States had tried their hands at this sort of thing; but there need not have been so much ignorance and naïveté. An example of this quality in the management was the expectation of some of the administrators that these families, without any previous experience with it, would at once fall into a coöperative mode of economic functioning. The resemblance is strong between some of the RA coöperative projects and those of Palestine, and perhaps some of the leaders were influenced by that experience. Furthermore, the personnel of RA was drawn in part from the NRA, which was being closed out at about the same time. Evidence as to the truth of these statements is furnished by the fact that the government's investment in the average farm sold up to the summer of 1943 was $6,600, whereas the selling price was $3,700. Only a fraction of this discrepancy is explained by the employment of a good deal of WPA labor on the construction work on these projects.

2. The public was allowed to obtain a wrong impression as to the nature and objectives of the projects. The popular notion of them was that they were all highly coöperative ventures, if not communistic, and that one of their main purposes was to substitute state landlordism for private ownership of land. The reasons for this false impression were partly that the more novel of the projects received most of the publicity, and that important staff members of the Resettlement Administration insisted on talking about the program as if its objectives were to remake agriculture according to a more communal pattern. No doubt some of them hoped that state landlordism would finally evolve out of the program. Most of what the RA and FSA undertook would have been acceptable to the public if these agencies could have furnished assurance that the farms would return to private ownership in due time. The

inclusion, in some FSA regions, of poll taxes in the farm and home budgets for rehabilitation loans did not improve public relations.

3. The RA and the FSA reached out and undertook a long list of supplemental activities, such as farm debt adjustment, coöperative buying and selling, medical coöperatives, improvement of leasing arrangements, grazing associations, farm labor camps, and the interstate movement of farm workers, nearly all of which were highly desirable in themselves, but each of which aroused opposition from some group.

4. As a result of the foregoing, groups that were opposed to some of the things which the RA and FSA very properly undertook to do were put in a position to attack them effectively. These groups included the landlords, who did not want any outsiders trying to reform their bad leasing systems. They even included some of the state agricultural extension services, which did not like to have a Federal agency working largely independently of them with large numbers of their farm families.

It thus follows that no settlement projects, as such, will be available in which the returning veterans can find a farm and home for themselves. Moreover, it is extremely doubtful if Congress in its present mood will permit the Veterans' Administration to organize veterans' colonies of the sort attempted after the last war. It may not legislate directly against such action, but it will surely look strongly askance at it. There is, however, in the bill now before Congress designed to reorganize the FSA, the Cooley Bill, a provision that farms in settlement projects suitable for Tenant Purchase farms may be so classified and sold as such, to veterans as well as to tenants.

More serious by far than the veterans' deprivation of a chance to share in closer settlement is the circumstance that the most ambitious undertaking of this sort in modern history has come to an end. This means that no one in this country will obtain the benefits of this particular kind of public assistance, until such time as the last experience has been forgotten, or perhaps until a very different group of Congressmen is elected. This need not have been the outcome of this venture. With more effective and more rational leadership and direction, much of the program would still be in operation.

Other FSA Opportunities

Thus far, there is nothing to prevent a veteran from receiving help in reëstablishing himself on the land from the FSA's other two programs. The attacks on the rehabilitation loan program have until now largely failed. They have reduced appropriations, but probably little more than has been warranted. But if the Cooley Bill passes in its present form, the loans will be held down to $3,500, they must be all paid off within five years, or at least, if they are not, no further loans can be obtained till they are. Moreover, no loan will be granted unless the farmer is unable to obtain it at a land bank at six per cent interest. Finally, the Cooley Bill, to use Congressman Cooley's own language in reporting the bill, "provides no basis for the paternalistic supervision and coddling practiced by the Farm Security Administration in the past." Of all these restrictions, the last one is by far the most serious. The FSA has made most of its loans almost from the beginning on the basis of farm and home plans and budgets of expected receipts and expenditures, and then has checked each year's performance against these plans, and in many cases kept a joint checking account with the borrower until he could be trusted to use his money in accordance with the plans. Without this servicing, half the reason for rehabilitation loans disappears. Provision for close collaboration with county extension staffs in such servicing would be highly desirable, but not its elimination.

The magnitude of the FSA loan programs is not usually appreciated. One farmer in every six now has, or has had, such a loan at some time since 1936. About a third of them, mainly the earlier ones, have not been serviced. Of the "standard" loans, that is, those made on the basis of plans and servicing, only one in six had been terminated a year ago because repayments were not satisfactory. The delinquencies are largely grouped in a block of Southern States where large numbers of loans were made to one-mule croppers at the very start of the program. Over a third of the nonstandard loans were not being repaid. On all FSA loans combined, collections have exceeded loans since 1941.

The third major part of the FSA program is that authorized under the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act of July, 1937, under which, by June, 1944, approximately 37,000 tenant farm families had already become owners of farms under forty-year amortization mortagages. A year ago the tenant purchasers had met their

annual payments and a half more, and only a few hundred were not up to schedule in their payments. These farms are planned and budgeted at the start even more carefully than those receiving standard loans, but it is expected that very little servicing will be needed after the first few years. This program has been outstandingly successful, but its budget has been restricted. This was desirable at the start, and again is with land prices at their present levels. When the land market becomes stable again, it should be expanded considerably.

The rehabilitation loans are of course available to veterans who otherwise qualify, and the Cooley Bill makes tenant purchase loans available to them, whether or not they are tenants or farm laborers, and also gives them preference over non-veterans in order of selection. This last is highly important, unless the appropriation for such loans is greatly increased when the war ends. The Cooley Bill contains a new feature which may help in this respect, namely, the insurance of mortgages on farms that meet the requirements of tenant purchase loans. Under this plan the government would collect the interest and pay three per cent to the mortgagee, ordinarily expected to be a local bank, and take over the loan if the mortgagor defaulted longer than a year. Veterans would also have the first call on all insured mortgages. Under the Cooley Bill, a total of $150,000,000 per year would be available to veterans or others to purchase farms under the two arrangements.

The New Legislation

Let us under this head analyze briefly the special legislation recently enacted for helping veterans obtain farms — the Canadian legislation first. Under the Veterans' Land Act of 1942, as amended in October, 1943, the Director buys a complete farm business, or the makings of one — that is, land, buildings, livestock and farm equipment — and sells it to the veteran under a contract at *two-thirds of the cost* of the *land and buildings only*, plus 10 per cent of the cost of the land and buildings. The veteran must pay this 10 per cent in cash when the contract is written. The two-thirds is payable over 25 years, with interest at 3½ per cent. Interest only may be required for the first five years. The Director holds title to the property till the debt is all paid. The maximum loan is $6,000, of which not more than $4,800 may be for real estate, and not more

than $1,200 for livestock and equipment.[7] The cost of these may be more, but the veteran must pay the excess in cash. If the veteran already owns a farm, he may obtain a loan for improvements up to 60 per cent of the value of the land, or for livestock and equipment up to 50 per cent of the value of the land, or for both purposes up to 60 per cent, by giving a first mortgage on his land, this also running for 25 years. The Act covers part-time as well as full-time farming, and also commercial fishing. Liberal provision is made for giving the veterans "practical instruction in farming" in the agricultural colleges or through extension services.

The first comment to be made on this program is that it puts the government in a position to exercise close control over the programs, especially at the start. In this country Congress refused to let the administrators buy and resell land in setting up the Tenant Purchase program. It was not going to have the government "getting into the real estate business." Next, one should note particularly the outright gift to the veterans of nearly a fourth of the cost of the real estate and improvements, plus up to $1,200 in livestock and equipment. On a maximum purchase of $4,800 for land and buildings, plus $1,200 for livestock and equipment, the veteran would pay $3,200 plus $480, and the government would contribute $2,320. Thus the veteran's debt burden is kept down to around two-thirds of his investment, which is about in keeping with the recoveries on the advances to veterans on farms after the last war.

One may still question, however, whether the maximum loan on real estate, after being raised from $3,600 to $4,800 in the 1943 amendment, is high enough to enable a veteran to set up an economical unit in some of the provinces. The limit under the 1919 Settlement Act was $7,500 for real estate and equipment combined, and the average loan was $4,270. Moreover, the experience of the Federal Land Banks in the United States is that a loan on a $10,000 farm is much safer in most areas than one on a $4,000 farm. The Tenant Purchase loans have averaged $5,600, and many of the operators have had rehabilitation loans in addition. Outside of the South, the Tenant Purchase loans average more than $8,000. The records show that, for the United States as a whole in 1941, the Tenant Purchase farmers with loans of less than $4,000 paid back $135, or 98 per cent of the scheduled payments, while those

7. The maximum was $4,800 before the 1943 amendment.

with loans of $8,000 or more paid back $499, or 125 per cent of their scheduled payments.

The reasons why the limit was lowered to $4,800 in the new Canadian legislation seem to have been mainly that only a small percentage of the actual farms of Canada are worth more than $4,800, and it was thought that the veterans wanting to buy more expensive farms would in most cases either have savings of their own or would be able to obtain help from their parents. It was also felt that the great mass of Canadian farmers living on farms worth less than $4,800 would look askance at the program if it financed purchases of expensive farms. The more costly the farm, of course, the larger the gift of one-third of its purchase price.

The setting of a fixed limit on the amount of the loan does, of course, discriminate somewhat between different parts of Canada. Farms are relatively low-priced in largely agricultural Quebec and the maritime provinces. Here the farms are relatively small and the population presses on the land resources, as in much of the southern territory of the United States. Veterans will have no difficulty in finding better than average farms for $4,800 in these provinces, and no doubt it will be in these provinces that most of the loans are made, unless the Act is administered with unusual discretion. But should veterans be encouraged to undertake farming in areas already overcrowded? With the use of more power and machinery on family-sized farms a likely prospect even in these provinces, should not the veterans be discouraged from contracting to pay for small cheap farms?

The Tenant Purchase program in the United States operates under a flexible limit, provided in the Tarver Amendment. The maximum purchase is the average value of farms in the county of more than 30 acres, not including building and other improvements that may be added after purchase. Application of the Tarver Amendment rule in Canada would probably mean, at 1939 farm real estate prices, farms with a value of $4,200 in Nova Scotia, $5,500 in Quebec, $6,300 in Ontario, $5,000 in Manitoba, and $6,500 in Alberta. The Tarver Amendment rule is far from satisfactory in its application to many local situations, but certainly it is far better than setting a flat maximum for all provinces of $4,800 for land, buildings and all improvements combined. If a limit needed to be set on the amount of the debt forgiven, this could have been

made an absolute figure of $1,600 (one-third of $4,800), like the absolute limit of $1,200 on livestock and equipment.

Although the Canadian Act says nothing about settling the veterans in colonies, it can work out that way in part, if the Director finds it advantageous to buy large farms and break them up, or to develop some blocks of land still within the public domain. He is now buying land with this purpose in mind, planning to clear it with modern machinery, get it ready for cultivation, and erect the needed farm buildings. All of the provinces have uncleared land, and British Columbia and Ontario have already passed legislation making such lands available and making special concessions to veterans. Other provinces are working on similar plans.

The manufacture of farms out of the wilderness with bulldozers and other modern equipment, and then colonizing them, will be an undertaking of great interest. Until now, most ventures of this sort have involved too heavy costs and also have fared badly in the settlement stage. Even the reclamation projects that have succeeded best in the past are mostly those in which the investment in advance of settlement was small.

The part-time farming feature of the Canadian program is also of great interest. Dr. Robert England writes that the servicemen are evincing great interest in this. What the Director has in mind really is suburban homes with five or ten acres of land. The applicant must have a good job, in order to qualify, or a pension, or a satisfactory combination of the two.

The New Zealand veterans' program is apparently largely based on the subdivision of estates. The "productive value" of the land is to be based on the average value of farm products in the last ten years. The New Zealand program proposes to train its veterans for agriculture, in part by having them work as apprentices for a period before selecting their farms.

The essential features of the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, in so far as it pertains to veterans and farming, are the guarantee by the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs of loans up to half the value of land, buildings, repairs and improvements, livestock and equipment. The aggregate amount guaranteed, however, must not exceed $2,000. The loans may be of any amount, but the guarantee is limited to $2,000. They carry four per cent interest, and must be repaid within twenty years. The government pays the first year's interest on the guaranteed amount. This same

guarantee, under identical conditions, is available to veterans wishing to buy a home, or to purchase a business or business property. Agricultural training for veterans is supported the same as other training — for a year at $50 a month ($75 for married men) plus tuition, books and incidental fees, and for additional time if the veteran makes passing grades in his courses. The purchase price of all property of all three types must not exceed "the reasonable normal value thereof as determined by proper appraisal." To obtain a loan for either agricultural or business purposes, the veterans must have the necessary "ability and experience," and the proposed venture must offer "reasonable likelihood" of success.

The benefits to veterans afforded in the Act are limited to the following:

1. A very liberal training period.

2. A chance for some of them to obtain a loan that they could not otherwise get from a bank or other local sources.

3. The government's sharing of the risk. If the venture fails, the veteran loses part of what he could have earned in the same period, and probably some resources of his own that he put into it; the government loses half of the invested capital, except as it may recover from foreclosure proceedings. The rights of the government are "to be subrogated to the lien rights of the holder of the obligation," that is, come after them.

4. A reduction of one or more per cent in the interest rate on the loan (depending upon the territory).

5. A year's relief from interest payments on the guaranteed amount.

The first of these contributions will be of great value to those who choose their training wisely and take it seriously. For some of the veterans, it will mean largely frittering away a year or more of their young lives. For veterans who really intend to farm, the training will need to be adapted to very practical needs and to the educational limitations of many of the applicants. Apprenticeships would be better than formal schooling for many of them.

The conclusion of the writers, after considerable study, is that the value of Numbers 2, 3 and 4 in the above list to agriculturally disposed veterans is highly limited. The bases for this conclusion appear in the examination of the use of the guarantee in the following situations:

A. First, take the case of the veteran who already owns a farm, or part of one, obtained by inheritance or help from his parents, who needs additional capital for any of the following purposes: (1) To buy more land — a very important purpose, since a large majority of the family farms in this country are now too small for effective use of the power and machines that will be used increasingly on them. (2) For additions to, or repairs and improvements of, farm buildings; or for land improvements, like drainage and woodland development. A majority of the farms of this country need capital for such purposes, partly because the prolonged agricultural depression of the inter-war years delayed such repairs and improvement, and partly because new developments in agriculture in many cases call for additions and changes. (3) For power and machinery equipment. Indications are that all sizes of farms, and especially those commonly designated as family or family-size farms,[8] will increase their use of power and machinery rapidly in the next decade or two. Farms which fail to do this could be greatly handicapped in competition with the others. (4) For additional or improved livestock. The most promising escape from the "surplus" situation which is likely to confront our agriculture within a year or two after the war is to shift more of our production into livestock and livestock products, which require much more land per unit of human food. For example, the average acre of wheat in the United States provides nearly four times as many calories as the average acre of land used to grow forage and grain for dairy cattle; the average acre of corn eight times as many calories when used as human food as when fed to dairy cows, four times as many as when fed to hogs, and twenty times as many as when fed to beef cattle. Livestock loans will facilitate these shifts and buy the improved breeding stock needed to raise the productivity level of present herds. New methods of breeding, used along with artificial insemination and herd improvement associations, afford new opportunities in this line which an ex-serviceman cannot afford to forego. (5) For annual working capital — especially important in crop-specialty and animal-specialty areas.

For any of these purposes, a loan ranging up to $4,000 or more, at four per cent interest, to run twenty years, with no interest the first year, should be highly attractive from the veteran's standpoint.

8. The second is the more precise term — it connotes the size of enterprise which an average-size farm family can handle with little or no hired labor.

But how will the lender react to it? In return for the government's guarantee of one-half the principal, and subrogating its lien rights to his, he is expected to take a cut in the interest rate of anywhere from one to six per cent (depending upon the region), and to accept repayments over a period of twenty years, if need be, in place of the usual five years on a real estate mortgage, and less on a chattel mortgage. It is difficult to believe that willing lenders will be easily available under these terms. Local banks, in particular, do not like to freeze their funds in such long-term loans.

The veteran, in turn, has several alternatives. For the first purpose, a real estate mortgage from the Farm Credit Administration, usually running for around thirty years, and carrying four per cent, plus a little extra for fees, is available. For the second purpose, the FCA has production credit loans, which cost an average of 5.24 per cent. These normally run for one year or less, but are regularly renewed, if used to purchase livestock or equipments. Still more important, the FSA, in so far as its funds will permit, can make loans to veterans for the third and fourth of these purposes at five per cent, to run for five years, and ex-

CAPITAL INVESTMENT NEEDED FOR EQUIPMENT AND FOR STOCKING AND OPERATING A FARM

Kind of Farming	Investment in Work Stock, Tools, and Equipment	Investment in Chickens, Cows, Hogs, Sheep, etc.	Money Required Each Year for Feed, Seed, Fertilizer, Labor, etc.
Poultry farming (2,000 hens)	$1,000–$1,500	$2,500–$3,000	$1,000–$1,500
Dairy farming (15 cows):			
Northeastern and Lake States	1,500– 2,000	1,800– 2,500	500– 1,000
Southern States	800– 1,200	1,500– 2,000	400– 600
Corn-hog-beef farm	2,500– 3,000	2,000– 2,500	1,000– 1,200
Cotton	600– 800	200– 250	400– 500
Wheat	2,000– 3,000	1,000– 2,000	800– 1,200
Diversified farming:			
Northwest and Midwest	2,500– 3,000	2,000– 2,500	1,000– 1,200
South	800– 1,000	700– 1,000	400– 600
Rocky Mountain States	1,000– 1,500	2,000– 3,000	1,000– 1,500
Cattle ranching (75–100 cows)	1,000– 1,500	5,000– 6,500	1,000– 1,500
Sheep ranching (800–1,000 ewes)	1,500– 2,000	6,000– 9,000	1,500– 2,000

tensible beyond that period at present. It can also make annual loans for the fifth purpose at the same rate. The FSA, however, is supposed to make loans only when other agencies will not do so on reasonable terms.

As to the size of loan required for the last three purposes, the United States Department of Agriculture has recently published the following estimates in a booklet entitled "Shall I Become a Farmer?" intended especially for the guidance of ex-servicemen. The estimates are for a family-sized farm, and do not allow adequately, in the writers' judgment, for the modernizations in equipment and livestock described above.

B. The case of the veteran desiring to become a tenant farmer, who needs capital to buy livestock and equipment, and perhaps some annual working capital. In this case, also, the guaranteed four per cent loan is attractive to the borrowers, but not to the lender. Tenants do not ordinarily remain in one place twenty years, and bankers prefer to loan to owner-operators rather than to tenant-operators. The FCA and FSA loans are also good alternative sources for such loans, especially the FSA.

C. Veterans desiring to buy a farm. Take first the veterans with no resources, except a few hundred dollars of savings sufficient to carry them through until the first crop is sold. The first point to make is that, although the guaranteed loan to a veteran for such a purpose can be for any amount, only $2,000 of it is guaranteed. The reduction in interest rate to four per cent, however, applies to all of it. Although the veteran may appear to gain from this, one can scarcely expect the lender to want to go above the $4,000 limit. Such loans will therefore mostly run under, rather than over, $4,000. The amount of capital required for the real estate part of the family-size farm listed in the table above has been estimated state-by-state in the same booklet. Following are the estimates for a few states chosen as examples. To these estimates must be added those for livestock and equipment in the first table.

Alabama	$3,500–$4,500	Wisconsin	$6,000–$10,000
North Carolina	4,000– 6,000	Iowa	7,500– 12,000
Texas	4,000–10,000	Kansas	8,000– 10,000
Missouri	4,500– 7,500	Montana	8,000– 12,000
Vermont	5,000– 7,500	Washington	8,000– 10,000
Pennsylvania	5,000– 8,000	California	9,000– 12,000

The guaranteed loans will thus help finance the purchase of very few family-size farms by veterans with small savings. If they make use of the loans at all, it will be to purchase small cheap farms, mostly in the South, and in the poorer sections of other states. They will have poor incomes — certainly ones that will not justify the government's spending much on their training. They will usually be able to pay off their mortgages very slowly; and only if they are very prudent and thrifty, will they own their farms at the end of twenty years. It is to be doubted if any program for agriculture in this country should be publicly supported which does not promise a net cash income for an able-bodied farmer in the prime of his life of at least $60 a month (in addition to the use of the farm dwelling and food and fuel obtained from the farm); and a reasonable goal for public programs for veterans is twice that amount. A net cash income of $60 a month requires an investment of at least $7,000 on the average; an income of $120 a month, an investment of at least $10,000. These are average for the whole country and the inter-war years. The family-size farms listed above will provide incomes somewhere between $60 and $120 per month. If they are dairy farms, they need from 12 to 15 cows, producing 300 pounds of butterfat a year, plus young stock for replacements, and the necessary pasture and roughage. If they are upland cotton farms, they need from 80 to 120 acres of land, with 15 to 20 acres of it in cotton, and 30 to 50 acres in other crops. A family-size wheat farm will require at least 640 acres; a family-size cattle ranch, from 75 to 100 breeding cows.

Let us now consider the veterans with resources of their own, so that they can furnish all their own livestock, equipment and working capital, and can set up a $5,500–$6,000 enterprise with a $4,000 loan. This will ordinarily earn something like $45 a month in cash income. Additional resources may also be needed for building repairs and improvements. After two decades of agricultural depression, the farm buildings of this country are in poor condition.

To take advantage of the guarantee, a veteran who wishes to be an owner-operator ought to have enough resources of his own, as an average for the United States, to raise the $4,000 to at least the average amount invested in Tenant Purchase farms, which is around $7,400 (the loans have averaged $5,600, and the purchasers have had about $1,800 of working capital). Besides, the "normal

value" of farms is likely to average higher after the war than in 1937–42. But veterans with $3,000 of their own may in many cases be able to finance themselves better elsewhere, if they keep from getting mixed up with a $2,000 government guarantee with priority and subrogation rights.

If the veterans do not have $3,000–$4,000 of capital of their own to add to the $4,000 — and a majority of them will not — they had better not try to own farms at this time. The wiser plan will be to use their guaranteed loan privileges to acquire the working capital needed to start in as cash or even share tenants on good farms where they can make a reasonable income, and to wait to buy their farms until they have enough capital for adequate ones.

If the veterans are to be encouraged to start as tenants, they need to be given good leases, and not many such leases are now in use in the United States. Such a lease will assure the tenant of a long enough tenure on his farm to make it worth his while to maintain the buildings and land in good condition, and even improve them; and it will compensate the tenant when he leaves for any unexhausted values in improvements he has made. The Veterans' Administration could advisedly give some attention to developing a suitable lease for veterans, and to encouraging the veterans to lease rather than to buy.

The foregoing is wisdom, but it is not likely to be accepted. Instead, the mistake of the last postwar period of putting veterans on very small or poor farms, and also the similar mistake of Subsistence Homesteads and RA, is likely to be repeated. If many agricultural real estate loans are guaranteed, a large fraction of them will be in the eleven southern states, where the average value of owner-operated farms in 1940 ranged mostly from $2,500 to $4,500, and in the poorer sections of other states. The local bankers will try to protect themselves by mortgages covering the whole property. The collections will be poor, and a large percentage of the veterans will quit making payments as soon as they can find a regular job somewhere. The veterans will in the meantime have lived, in a fashion, off the government's bounty, and maybe a little off the local bankers, if they do not watch out. As a stage in the readjustment of the veterans, such use of the public funds may be warranted, as is maintained by Mr. Murchison in the case of the Canadian veterans after the last war; but to lay out a program that contemplates such an outcome in advance is dubious strategy.

If many under-size veteran farms are set up in the South, there will be the further complication that cotton production is faced by drastic readjustments in the next decade or two, because of the mechanization in prospect. Except in the delta and similar areas, farming is likely to become considerably more extensive and diversified than it is now, and larger farms will therefore be needed.

Legislative Background

A few words about the origin of this legislation may help us to understand it. A wide variety of approaches to the problem have been presented to Congress. Most of the bills are earlier versions of the bill finally passed. These include a whole batch of bills introduced in January, 1944, that resemble the final bill in many respects, but differ drastically in the extent of the aid. The upper limit in these was ninety-five per cent of the value of the farm up to $12,500, at five per cent interest for forty years, in the form of a direct loan by a state agency set up under the Veterans' Administration. Two later versions introduced in the spring went to the other extreme of a $1,000 limit at three per cent, in the form of direct loans from the Veterans' Administration, and included business loans. Apparently the $2,000 limit finally reached as a general provision was a compromise between what was deemed proper for a business loan and proper for an agricultural loan.

Bills representing other approaches to the problem are those of Congressman Patman and Senator Bankhead, introduced in the fall of 1943, which would amend the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act to include veterans, and appropriate the necessary additional funds. The Bankhead Bill also provides for proper distribution between the states, and includes the plan for insuring farm mortgages now in the Cooley Bill. This scheme, borrowed from Federal experience with the insurance of mortgages on homes, had been introduced by Congressman Wickersham in June, 1943, as the sole device for helping veterans to buy farms. It was to be administered in the Department of Agriculture. The Lemke Bill would insure each veteran according to the length of his service, up to a maximum of $10,000, and use his insurance policy as a basis for farm loans. One of the simplest and most direct of all the proposals was that of Congressman Reid Murray of Wisconsin, to have the FCA

make forty-year loans at three per cent, with appraisal on the usual FCA "normal value" basis, with no limit to size of loan, and with a $1,000 bonus thrown in. The latest bill (at time of writing) is that of Hatch and White of California, which gives veterans preference in buying farms in the big Central Valley project, and outlines a detailed plan of administration by the Veterans' Administration and the Department of Agriculture. The Murdock Bill makes general provision for the entrance of veterans on public lands in reclamation projects of the Department of Interior.

Most of the discussion as this article was being written centered around the method of disposal of the lands taken over for military use during the war. This included around three and one-half million acres of farming land, about a third arable. In the recent surplus property law, the veterans are given priority of purchase, after the former owners and tenants. This will not help the veterans much.

Most of the Congressmen who voted for the G. I. Bill were apparently not thinking very hard about the problem of helping ex-servicemen to become farmers. By that time, they had got to thinking of the ten million male veterans — nearly a third of the male working population of the nation — who would need to be readjusted to their former lives, and of the immense outlays involved in this, if actual advances were made. The idea of guaranteeing loans, instead of making them, suggested perhaps by the Bankhead and Wickersham Bills, seemed a happy solution. In so far as they thought of servicemen on farms, they could not have been thinking of an honest-to-goodness family farm where the family can live the kind of a life that the family of a union laborer lives in the city. Instead, they must have had in mind a smallholding and subsistence on the land. Providing this as an alternative to the unemployment of veterans, which most Congressmen fear within two or three years after the war, must have been a large factor in the support for the measure.

The Canadians, on the other hand, have made additional provision for veterans wishing farms. What they have provided for such veterans is so much more liberal, and so much better conceived, than our provisions, as to put this country very much to shame. Perhaps the explanation for this is that many of our farm leaders are not much interested in helping young men with very limited resources to become farm owners. And the farm groups

that would normally be concerned over this were thinking in terms of smallholdings. A surprising number of the leaders in these groups conceive of a family farm and a smallholding as one and the same. They sometimes talk in their meetings of breaking up 160-acre Iowa farms into 80's and 40's, so as to make room for more farm families. This point of view has been most strongly expressed of late by Elmer T. Peterson[9] in his dictum that "There just isn't enough wealth-producing work in town to keep eighty-five per cent of our manpower employed. Some will have to get on the soil and produce their own food, or they won't eat." He concludes that at least one-fourth of the nation's population must obtain its living from the land. O. E. Baker, Ralph Borsodi and M. L. Wilson wrote in similar vein in Agriculture in Modern Life.[1] President Roosevelt must have had similar thoughts when he spoke of back-to-the-land for veterans in Alaska upon his recent return from that region; so must Governor Saltonstall some months earlier, when he urged return to the land as a remedy for postwar unemployment in a talk at Burlington, Vermont.

Need for Soldier Settlement

Nowhere thus far in the discussion has the question been raised whether ex-servicemen should be encouraged to become farmers. The case for it can be stated in the following terms:

First, around 1,300,000 men have entered the services from the rural areas. At the same time, around four million have gone into industrial and other non-farm work. The number of skilled farm workers has been reduced very greatly in consequence. Mechanization of agriculture can be expected to proceed rapidly for a while after the war, but there will still be need and opportunity for a good many servicemen in farming.

Second, the farm operators of this country have been getting old rapidly in recent years, and younger men are going to be needed in large numbers, if the quality of our agriculture is not going to decline.[2] This was coming about before the war, because, at one end, the older farmers were not retiring at their former rate —

9. Forward to the Land, University of Oklahoma Press, 1942.

1. New York, 1939.

2. The statistics on the aging of farm operators are conclusive. There were nearly a half more rural-farm males over 65 years of age in 1940 than in 1920, and over a fourth more over 55 years of age. The percentage of farm operators over 65 years of age increased 30 per cent from 1920 to 1940.

mainly because they could not afford to — and at the other end, young men had been dropping off the agricultural ladder in unusually large numbers. Both of these were results of the prolonged inter-war agricultural depression. Included in the present group of farm operators are perhaps 200,000 who would have retired, if the war had not come. But this is only a small fraction of those who need to be replaced by younger men.

Third, agriculture needs to make some contribution to the postwar full employment and full production now being planned. A full-production economy also means a larger national agricultural output, and possibly more employment in spite of mechanization.

Fourth, included among the veterans will be a fraction for whom farming will be the preferred occupation. The nation's obligation to them can be fulfilled only by helping them to become farmers. If an industrial worker has an assured job, he is adequately provided for. A farmer needs a farm, however, and this takes money, which many do not have.

Among this number will be some who are partly disabled and for whom a farm life is clearly their best outlook. These especially need public aid. The part-time feature of the Canadian program could be adopted for this purpose.

These arguments, however, could very easily be overweighted. One gets the impression from the United States Department of Agriculture's booklet, "Shall I Become a Farmer?", that the answer hoped for will be "no" more often than "yes." Secretary Wickard stresses in his introduction the importance of "an adequate farm and sufficient equipment and capital." The text stresses the long hours, the hazards of weather, the low cash returns. "Farming, in fact, is a hard way of making a living."

Back of these statements, no doubt, lies the fear of impending surpluses after the war, and the cold fact that our farms have produced in 1942–44 a fourth more farm products than in 1935–39, after losing five millions of their best workers. It is industry and trade that mainly must expand, if the nation is to have full employment. Already this nation has too many farms and farmers; and so have many other nations.

Soldier settlement must not serve to increase the number of families on farms. Instead, it needs to take the form of selective replacement of relatively unproductive farms and farmers by a smaller number of better ones. Accompanying this selection

needs to go the kind of agricultural training that modern farming demands.

In this connection, a recent statement by Director Murchison of the Canadian Veteran's Land Act deserves high commendation:[3]

> The greatest danger to the success of postwar land settlement enterprises is haste in getting the job done too quickly. Pressure from the veterans and certain sections of the public is understandable, but inevitably it leads to poor selection of veterans and properties on which they are established, not to mention the highly inflationary effects of acquiring vast amounts of property and chattels over a brief period of time. My own view is that the maximum point of operations under The Veterans' Land Act should not be reached until approximately ten years following the expiration of hostilities.[4] It will probably be hard to convince many veterans and others that this period of time should elapse, but we must recognize that there will be tens of thousands of our veterans who prior to enlistment were attending school or had not reached an age where they had ever had the responsibility of maintaining a farm or any other kind of home. Many thousands of them will still be single men when they come out of the forces and for a considerable period thereafter. So long as they know that the provisions of this Act will be available for many years to come, there is a good argument as to why they should go slowly in deciding precisely where and how they intend to make a permanent livelihood.

Loan Values

The time when the loan is made is closely involved in the problem of price levels and farm real estate values. The G. I. Bill and the Canadian Act both attempt to require appraisal on the basis of the normal earning power of the farms. This "normal value" provision will tend to work out in either of two ways: the normals will be lifted by raising the level of farm prices on which they are based — raising it more nearly to "parity"—or relatively few guaranteed loans will be made. The Farm Credit Administration is still supposedly appraising cotton land on the basis of normal yields at ten cents per pound. The parity price of cotton is more than twice this, and Congress last June required the government to raise cotton prices all the way to parity. Farm real estate values have already risen 42 per cent in the United States during the war, but they are still slightly below 1929 values, and 1929 values were 32 per cent below 1920 values. "Normal" in terms of 1939 conceptions of prices of farm products is going to look very low after the war. The Canadian average farm real estate price has risen

3. From a letter of August 30, 1944.

4. The G. I. Bill requires applications for loan guarantees to be made within five years.

only 13 per cent during the war; but in Quebec the rise has been 32 per cent and in Ontario, 22 per cent. Relations to 1929 and 1920 prices are about the same as in the United States, except that the 1920 prices were not so high.

Another aspect of the land value problem should not be overlooked, namely, that a strong demand by servicemen for farms will surely induce an inflation of these values. The real land boom of the last war period did not come until after the men had come home. Detailed studies of it in Iowa and Kentucky, however, show that the basis for it was purchasing power in the hands of farmers' sons and tenants derived from the good farm incomes of 1917–19. Some of this purchasing power went to help veterans obtain farms, but not a major fraction of it, as assumed by many. The situation will be different this time, because larger numbers are involved. The buying of Tenant Purchase farms has not thus far been enough of a factor in most localities to strengthen the land market. It would be, if the rate of buying were trebled. The Tarver Amendment was passed because some Congressmen believed that the Tenant Purchase administration was paying too much for its farms. It has to some extent had the effect intended.

But even the Farm Tenant Act is incompetent to deal with the problem raised by rising land values in wartime. On the one hand, the servicemen should not be loaded down with debts incurred at high land-value levels. On the other hand, few farms will be for sale at old "normals." That the Tenant Purchase program has been able to make loans at all in the last two years has been mainly because of farms released in resettlement projects. Several alternatives are available:

1. Give the veteran an option to buy in five to ten years at an appraisal value then to be determined, and let him farm under a lease in the meantime. This would require the government's holding title to the farm in the meantime. The government would lose if land values declined, but it is better to have the government hold the bag than to make the veterans do it. This plan would also have the advantage of giving the veteran a chance to see if he really wanted to farm, and if he liked the particular farm.

2. Make an outright sale to the veteran, but provide for rewriting the amount of the mortgage at a specified time after the war, in case farm real estate values decline (not otherwise), using a national or regional index of farm real estate values as a basis.

This might also mean the government's taking some losses from decline in land values.

In its present mood, Congress will be more likely to accept the second of these plans. Either of them is entirely feasible.

Tenant Purchase as an Alternative

The Servicemen's Act also specifies that veterans are eligible for Tenant Purchase loans. The Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act, however, requires these loans to be distributed according to farm population and number of tenants in a state. Many counties have quotas of only two or three a year. Even stepping up the appropriation to $150,000,000 a year, as provided in effect in the Cooley Bill, would not begin to suffice for the veterans' needs in many sections of the country. If this Act were amended so as to take care of all the veterans wishing farms of their own, the following advantages would be afforded over those in the Servicemen's Act:

1. The loans would be large enough for real family farms.
2. The size of the loan would be adjusted to the type of farming in the area.
3. The interest rate would be three per cent.
4. The repayment schedule would be flexible according to the income of each year.
5. The loans would be very effectively serviced.
6. The program would attain a reasonable measure of success with small losses. The fact of the matter is that we now know in this country how to do a job of resettling farm families. The Tenant Purchase administration has demonstrated how to do it, at a cost to the government well under what the Canadians have agreed to undertake by throwing in $1,200 of equipment and livestock and one-third the cost of the land and buildings. The Tenant Purchase borrowers are mortgaging their farms for the full cost of the land and buildings, and still paying out. The help given at the start in planning the farm business and putting the farm in productive condition, plus selecting family-size farms rather than smallholdings, are the main reasons for this success.

A clause in the Servicemen's Act authorizes the Veterans' Administration to use existing agencies. It can therefore make use of the Tenant Purchase agency in carrying out its program. But the program is such that not even this agency can make it

serve the veterans' needs. The guaranteed loan provisions are too inadequate and too full of dangers. The Tenant Purchase program, moreover, needs to be kept clearly distinguished from the veterans' land program as this program is conducted under the Act as now written.

If one purpose of the guaranteed loan scheme was to give local banks a chance to carry the loans, that purpose is easily attained through the mortgage insurance provision of the Cooley Bill. If Congress were to do nothing else than to pass this provision of the Cooley Bill, and increase the $100,000,000 to $500,000,000, it would do much more to help veterans obtain farms than the whole Servicemen's Act will accomplish.

Concluding Statements

As the situation now rests, servicemen seeking farms on which to support their families in large part from the proceeds of farming, and not having enough resources of their own to buy one with credit facilities already available, will do well not to use the guaranteed loans in the G. I. Bill. Instead, they should ask for a Tenant Purchase loan, and if not enough of these are available, demand that Congress vote additional Tenant Purchase funds. If they already have a farm free of mortgage, and want to borrow to make improvements or buy livestock or equipment, the G. I. Bill twenty-year guarantee is a good offer, if a lender can be found. Most young owner-operators, however, have mortgages on their farms and cannot take advantage of this offer. It is to be presumed that the veterans will have access to the facilities of the rehabilitation loan program of the FSA, in case the local bankers are not willing to care for them. But the FSA funds may not be adequate and the Cooley Bill may shorten the period of such loans unduly. The Veterans' Administration can guarantee twenty-year loans for such purposes. It could call upon the FSA to handle this type of loan, also, if Congress would appropriate the necessary funds. Probably both types of loans are needed.

This article is not concerned with the rest of the Servicemen's Act, but it may be enlightening to remark that guaranteed loans up to $2,000 for veterans going into business are even more tricky than for those going into farming. As is well known, the turnover in retail businesses and small shops is extremely high. Very little capital is required to start most of these. Perhaps the Con-

gressmen were thinking of this when they set the limit at $2,000. There have been indications that many of the men in the services are thinking that they would like a store or shop of their own when they get home. Certainly there has been enough propaganda recently for that kind of "free enterprise." One does not readily visualize the Veterans' Administration making surveys of sections of cities to see at which locations a new store or shop is likely to succeed. Yet this is what the Act asks them to do. It no doubt will call on the Department of Commerce to help with this task, but this is a new rôle for the Department of Commerce, and one has no right to expect this agency to be equal to this difficult assignment at the start.

On the one hand, the desire of Congress to do as well by the city boys as by the farm boys in the service may have prompted it to reach out from farms for veterans — a long-established tradition — to homes for factory workers, stores for white collar workers, and shops for mechanics. On the other hand, making a program to fit all of them at once may have resulted in one that does not fit any of them.

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FARMS FOR VETERANS

By Lowry Nelson

A JOINT COMMITTEE REPORT

PLANNING PAMPHLETS

NO. 47 25c

NATIONAL PLANNING ASSOCIATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FARM SECURITY ADMINISTRATION
Region One
Philadelphia 2, Pennsylvania

October 19, 1945

To: All FSA Offices

IMPORTANT

From: J. H. Wood, Regional Director

Subject: On-Farm Training for Veterans

As you all know, various training and other aids for veterans have been established for returning servicemen by the US Veterans Administration. Some of them are no doubt familiar to you -- such as college training provided under the GI Bill of Rights. Special varieties of this free assistance are available for servicemen returning -- or turning for the first time -- to agriculture. These possibilities of help should be thoroughly studied and then discussed fully with your county committeemen. We have a double responsibility, as citizens as well as Federal employes, to make these benefits known to servicemen who seek information from us.

You'll see at once the tremendous value of the subsistence payments provided during training periods under both these programs and both you and your committee should keep them in mind when working out farm and home plans with servicemen. I can't think of any better or more realistic way of helping a young farmer than the double-barrelled program of training and subsistence which is outlined below. I hope all our people will make a real effort to see that every veteran takes advantage of the assistance which Congress has provided for him, and that we'll use these programs to make our own FSA program better and more effective.

Note carefully that there are two programs, established by different legislation and varying sharply in their benefits and eligibility. The first is for any serviceman who wishes to take advantage of it and who is eligible by reason of 90 days service and a release without a dishonorable discharge. The second is exclusively for men who have suffered a disability while in service. Any man who has been rated 10 or more percent disabled is eligible. This rating is established by a claim to the nearest Veterans Administration headquarters.

Although the two programs of training are separate and distinct, the actual plan of training is in both cases drawn up by the same committee. It is called the Agricultural Training Committee and is made up of the FSA Supervisor, County Agent, Veterans Administration representative and the Vocational Agriculture representative. They may expand the committee by drawing into it as many farmers as they choose -- such as members of the FSA County Committee or the Veterans County Advisory Committee (set up last year by the County Agent). This Training Committee will carefully work out a suitable plan of training for the veteran, considering his age, background, experience, training, immediate plans, and his long-range objectives.

I. GI Bill Training for Servicemen (Not Disabled)

This is provided under the terms of the GI Bill of Rights (Public Law 346) and is the agricultural equivalent of the privilege of attending school or college. It is designed to provide practical training or a refresher course for men who intend to farm for a living. Like the college and school plan, it provides subsistence for the man being trained while he is learning his trade. This subsistence is $50 per month for single men and $75 per month for married men, regardless of the number of children or other dependents.

Training is given by the state vocational agriculture staff under plans developed by their representative and the training committee. It will include what they believe necessary to help the man get off to a good start. It will be a combination of work right on the farm itself and classroom study. A man can receive this training and subsistence on his own farm, on his father's or family's farm, or while employed on someone else's farm.

Servicemen of any age, and with any amount of service (over 90 days) are eligible for one year of this training. If the veteran was under 25 years of age or if his education was interrupted by military service, he is eligible for one year plus the amount of time spent in the service. This applies to all types of schooling given under the GI Bill, whether college, trade school or on-the-job training, such as the agricultural plan outlined above.

Arrangements are made through the Veterans Administration which requests the vocational agriculture people to provide training. There is no direct supervision or follow-up by the Veterans Administration itself.

II. On Farm Training for Servicemen (Disabled)

This program is authorized by Public Law 16, and is aimed to help men injured in military service prepare themselves to make a satisfactory living at an occupation of their own choice. For agriculture it works this way. A man who is disabled 10 per cent or more applies to the Veterans Administration for training. The Veterans Administration discusses the matter thoroughly with him, and then goes with him into the country where he plans to settle. The training committee then helps the serviceman work out a course of training -- both classroom and on the farm -- which will enable him to operate the type of farm unit he and they agree is most suited to him.

You'll note that under this program the Veterans Administration representative plays a large part and follows the operation much more closely than in the simpler form under the GI Bill.

While training, the disabled serviceman is paid subsistence at the following monthly rates -- $92 if a single man; $103.50 if a married man, plus $5.75 for each dependent child, plus $11.50 for each dependent parent. For instance, a married man with two children would be entitled to $115 monthly while training. The training and subsistence can continue as long as four years, if the Veterans Administration and the training committee agree that it is required.

Like GI Bill training, this can be on the man's own farm, on his father's or family's farm or on an employer's farm. No matter who does the training, the Veterans Administration draws up a contract which outlines the training the farmer has agreed to provide.

If the training is done on an employer's farm, the wages paid have no bearing on the amount of subsistence. In other words, if the employer pays the veteran $50 per month, or $150 per month, it makes no difference; the amount of subsistence remains unchanged. If the veteran has a disability pension, however, the pension is included in the amount of subsistence posted above. In other words, the pension is included in the subsistence payment, not added to it.

The Veterans Administration will insist that the on-farm training be given by a capable, skillful farmer -- one who can teach the veteran the best and most modern farm practices. It is possible, for instance, that the veteran's own father might not be considered eligible as a trainer if the father is not conducting a high-type farm operation. In every way possible, the Veterans Administration will insist that the veteran learn nothing but the most successful farm technique.

Classroom training will be given by the vocational agriculture staff or, if necessary, by specialists brought from other educational institutions and agencies. The course of training will be custom-tailored to the needs of the serviceman. Don't make the error of thinking that this is simply for "greenhorns". It isn't. I've yet to see a farmer who couldn't use a little more training and education. This plan can operate to help make an average farmer a good one; and to give a first-rate farmer still further specialized training in whatever line he chooses to follow.

One further note of caution, don't let the word "disabled" scare you. A man with a small 'percentage' of disability, say 10 or 15 percent, is likely to be perfectly capable of operating a full-size family-type farm. His disability may consist of a broken eardrum, impaired hearing or something similar which does not affect his over-all physical ability.

To return to the training itself. It will consist of six hours per week -- five hours in classrooms and an additional hour spent by the trainer on the farm. The hour on the farm will be a check to make sure that the schoolroom work is being well tied into the practical training the man receives in his daily work.

The training committee watches the progress of the serviceman and can recommend changes in his training, can recommend lengthening or shortening it and in general, will act as guide.

This training program for disabled veterans can be arranged to include regular school or college training, if that seems best. It might for instance, be worked out to include a two-year short course at one of the land-grant colleges and then be followed by a year or two of actual apprenticeship on a farm, either his own, the family's or an employer's. The combined training periods cannot exceed four years however.

A veteran must apply for training -- either under the GI Bill or the aid to disabled men -- within two years of his discharge or two years after the end of the war, whichever is later. (The war is still not officially over, bear in mind, and the first World War did not end until 1921). The training for disabled men is authorized to continue five years after the official end of the war. A veteran partly-trained at that time might presumably be out of luck.

The close and easy transition from this training to our FSA program is easy to perceive. Very likely the fully-trained men will be eligible and desirable candidates for Farm Security loans.

During the coming months, we will be cooperating as closely as possible with the Veterans Administration in this splendid program of assistance. You are to give them every possible assistance in the field. I hope you will familiarize yourself and your FSA committee with this outline. Even more important, watch the actual operation of this program as it develops in your area.

The Veterans Administration has placed agricultural representatives in the offices listed below and will doubtless expand this staff still further. These men's names are attached so that you may refer veterans to them for the help they have so richly earned.

Francis L. Mantione
Veterans Administration
Customs House, Phila., Pa.

W. H. Taplin
Chief, Education and Training
Veterans Administration
White River Junction, Vt.

J. S. Gardner
Training Officer
Veterans Administration
Togus, Maine

Francis D. Purcell
Training Officer
Veterans Administration
Lyons, N. J.

J. J. Gilchrist
Rehabilitation Officer
Veterans Administration
Albany, N. Y.

Earle W. Dudley
Chief, Training and Education
Veterans Administration
New York City

G. E. MacMillan
Training Officer
Veterans Administration
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Fred O. Jupenlaz
Vocational Adviser
Veterans Administration
Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Ralph Hutchins
Training Officer
Veterans Admin.
Baltimore, Md.

J. P. Dermody
Agric. Train'g Off.
Veterans Admin.
Batavia, N. Y.

Harold P. Mora
Training Officer
Veterans Admin.
Providence, R. I.

Also attached you'll find a copy of the program for agricultural training which has been developed in the Washington office of the Veterans Administration by Mr. D. Z. McCormick, Chief of the agency's Vocational Rehabilitation Division. This will provide complete details on the workings of the program (under both laws) which we have outlined above.

Veterans Administration
Agricultural Training Subdivision
September 25, 1945.

The education, general background, and financial status of veterans returning to rural communities are usually of such a nature as to make training on their farms and in their home communities most practicable and preferable to them. Fortunately, a number of agencies, which have been operating to give education, training and assistance to farmers on their farms and in their communities, are equipped and available for use in agricultural education and training program for veterans.

Central Office has developed policy statements for the guidance of Regional Offices relative to programs of agricultural education and training for veterans under Public Law 16 and 346, 78th Congress. These policies will be applied and interpreted within the limits of existing and forthcoming Veterans Administration instructions.

1. The agricultural Training Officer will facilitate the coordination of available services of agricultural and educational agencies in the area by bringing together representatives of Vocational Agriculture Education, the Agricultural Extension Service, and the Farm Security Administration. This group will form the nucleus of a Veterans Administration Agricultural Training Committee. The membership of this Committee may be increased, if desirable, by adding such other persons as leading farmers and representatives of other agricultural agencies and institutions operating in the area. With the advice and assistance of this Committee, the training officer will develop plans for making use of the services of the several agencies in carrying out the individual training programs of veterans. The work of this Committee must be closely coordinated with the work of the veterans County Agricultural Advisory Committee which has been created by the Agricultural Extension Service pursuant to an agreement between the Veterans Administration and the United States Department of Agriculture (See All Regional Office Letter, with attachments, June 19, 1944). This coordination may be effected by the Committee having common membership or by holding occasional meetings in common.

2. The actual teaching of veterans will not be attempted by representatives of the Veterans Administration, but will be arranged for through contracts with the State Department of Vocational Education or with educational and training institutions, such as schools or Boards of Education and through agreements with employer-trainers.

3. A training program for a veteran in training on the farm will provide for (a) instruction on the job relative to carrying out farm operations and, (b) organized instruction in related subject matter in the classroom, laboratory, shop or school farm.

4. <u>Training on the farm under an employer-trainer</u>.
A veteran who lacks the experience and skill to do adequately the usual and ordinary farm work or who for other reasons is not ready

to start farming for himself, may be put in training on a farm under an employer-trainer. His instruction will fall into three categories:

a. His employer-trainer will train him to do the usual and ordinary farm work under guidance and direction. The employer-trainer will also be under agreement to cooperate with the carrying out of the types of instruction given in paragraphs "b" and "c" below.

b. The vocational agriculture teacher, either regular or special, will visit the trainee and employer-trainer, on the farm at regular intervals for a minimum of 48 hours per year, for the purpose of coordinating the related instruction and its application with the training the veteran is receiving from the employer-trainer in doing farm jobs. He will relate this latter training to the problems of self-proprietorship which is the objective of most trainees.

c. The trainee will receive a minimum of 200 hours per year of organized related instruction in the classroom, shop or laboratory at a nearby institution or other satisfactory location. This instruction will be given or supervised by the same vocational agriculture teacher who visits the veteran at the farm.

5. Training on the farm under self-proprietorship.

A veteran may be placed in training on the farm under self-proprietorship if he is operating a farm as owner or tenant, or under a management or share agreement or other tenure arrangement which fully protects the welfare of the veteran. Under self-proprietorship the veteran's training program will be based upon a complete operating farm and home plan including financial statement, budget of income and expenses, schedule of production and disposal of crops, livestock, and livestock products, inventory of livestock, equipment and supplies, and statement of family living furnished by the farm. The trainee's instruction will fall into two categories:

a. The vocational agriculture teacher, either regular or special, will visit the trainee on his farm at regular intervals for a minimum of 96 hours per year, for the purpose of giving him instruction and assistance in the management and operation of the farm and for the purpose of relating the institutional training to the carrying out of the farm and home plan.

b. The trainee will receive a minimum of 150 hours per year of organized related instruction in the classroom, shop or laboratory at a nearby institution or other satisfactory location. Whenever possible this instruction will be given or supervised by the same vocational agriculture teacher who instructs the veteran at the farm.

6. In addition to the above, it is expected that the necessary consideration will be given to the following opportunities in education and training:

a. Regular college work for those who can qualify and who wish to enroll.

b. Abbreviated courses of college level.

c. Practical below college level courses offered by agricultural and other colleges varying in length from a few weeks to as much as two years, depending upon the needs and desires of the individual.

d. Vocational schools and junior colleges offering both college and sub-college work with opportunities for practical experience in farming.

e. Regular adult work conducted by Vocational Agriculture Education, which includes part-time (young farmer) and evening classes.

Agriculture Vets

NATIONAL FARMERS UNION
300 "B" Street, S. E.
Washington 3, D. C.
November 15, 1945

Phone: ATlantic 9647 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON - Strengthening of the Farm Security Administration to serve the needs of World War 11 veterans was urged upon President Truman today by Russell Smith, legislative secretary of the National Farmers Union. James G. Patton, president, and

Two steps to this end were proposed to the President by Smith, the Farmers Union said in a statement issued here today. First of these was appointment of R. W. Hudgens, now Assistant Administrator, as Administrator to succeed Frank Hancock. Second was support of the Bankhead Bill (S1507) to amend the Bankhead-Jones Act and extend its coverage to veterans. The Farmers Union statement was as follows:

"In the conference with the President today, strengthening of the Farm Security Administration to meet the needs of returning veterans was urged by Legislative Secretary Russell Smith.

"The first of these was the appointment of Assistant Administrator R. W. Hudgens to succeed Frank Hancock as Administrator. Hudgens, a wounded veteran of the first World War, long has fought the veterans' battle in Washington, so far as its agricultural phases are concerned. This is evidenced by the fact that he is being widely supported by American Legionnaires and Veterans of Foreign Wars throughout the country, as well as by other veterans groups. Moreover, all of the groups and individuals that have been interested in the success of Farm Security are united in their endorsement of Hudgens for the position.

"The other recommendation made to the President regarding FSA was that the Administration should lend all possible support to S1507, the bill introduced recently by Senator Bankhead, Ala., to make veterans eligible for farm ownership and farm operating loans on FSA credit terms and with FSA technical assistance. This bill would amend the Bankhead-Jones Act in this way, and offers the only real prospect of agricultural assistance to veterans. The GI Bill of Rights will be of no help to them in this field. The bill also would provide FSA the legislative authority that has been sought from Congress for years."

Agriculture + Vet.

3/18/46

TENTATIVE OUTLINE OF TRAINING VETERANS IN AGRICULTURE

I. Types of Programs in Agricultural Education and Training.

Agricultural education and training courses are offered under three main types of programs:

1. Institutional programs offered primarily on the campus of agricultural schools, with some off-campus inspection trips and projects of a supplementary nature sometimes being included.

2. On-the-job training programs offered by employers with some off-the-job instruction of a supplementary nature usually included. The responsibility for for the accomplishment of the training rests with the employer rather than a school. The trainee trains for a position existing in the employer's establishment.

3. Combination training programs offered by agricultural schools, consisting of combinations of institutional instruction and on-the-job instruction, the two being so planned that each supplements the other and both contribute definitely to the accomplishment of the trainee's vocational objective. In this type of training, the responsibility for offering and providing the entire course rests with the school. The school offers institutional instruction and selects or approves the place where the trainee pursues the on-the-job portion of his program. This place is considered an extension of the school's facilities. The school furnishes both portions of the program, and when the job training portion of the program is not under an employee-trainer, the staff of the school offers all of the necessary job instruction.

II. Training Veterans on Farms

1. Wherever possible and practicable training veterans on farms will follow the plan set forth in paragraph number 1-3 above.

Wherever this is impossible, the training should follow a plan made up of a combination of training described in paragraph numbered 1-2 above, supplemented by courses chosen from the best possibilities available from the types of training described in paragraph I-1 above.

2 In order to secure the best possible guidance and service in technical problems of the program of each veteran, the Veterans Administration through the Senior Agricultural Training Officer will organize state and local committees to be known as the Veterans Agricultural Training Committee. Wherever a state is divided by regional office boundary lines, the regional offices will coordinate their approach to the state agencies. The nucleus of these committees will consist of representatives of Vocational Agricultural Education and agencies of the United States Department of Agriculture active in the area. The membership of the committees will be increased if expedient by adding such other persons as leading farmers and representatives of other institutions operating in the area. The state committee will assist in organizing county committees and, if necessary, community committees with the same agencies represented. All committee members will serve without remuneration from the Veterans Administration.

In order that each agency may make its macimum contribution to the training program of each trainee and in order that the instructor may schedule these contributions into the training program at the time, rate and in the manner to effect maximum results with the trainee, instructors and Agricultural Training Officers will use the services of these committees in an advisory capacity for the following purposes:

a. Coordinating the services and technical information to be offered by the agricultural agencies with the teaching agency

b. Recommending farms as to suitability for training.

c. A ssisting in developing individual training programs for veterans.

The work of this Committee will be closely coordinated with the work of the Veteran's County Agriculufal Advisory Committee which has been created by the Agricultural Extension Service pursuant to an agreement between the Veterans Administration and the United States Department of Agriculture (See all Regional Office Letter, with attachements, June 19, 1944.) This coordination may be effected by the Committees having common membership or by holding occasional meetings in common.

III. Training Veterans on Farms under Plan Described in Paragraph I-3 above, Public 16, 78th Congress.

An eligible veteran with employment objective of "farmer" (farm manager or farm operator) will be enrolled with an institution for full-time training when the institution is using as a part of its facilities:

A . A farm under the management of the trainee when requirements of Paragraph A below are met specifically and other applicable instructions are met in general.

b. A farm of an employer-trainer when it has been established, with reasonable certainty, that the trainee will have an opportunity at the end of the training period to enter into self-proprietorship operation of a farm with operational control to be established through ownership, lease, management agreement, or other tenure arrangement which will full protect the welfare of the veteran trainee.

An eligible veteran, whose employment objective as an employee is "farm foreman", "farm manager", or "farm hand", may be placed in training under an employer-trainer when those objectives show that attainment will require sufficient training in agriculture, skills or managerial ability to insure employability, and, as far as possible, to insure a continued demand for the trainee's services at a satisfactory income. The objective of "general farmhand" does not ordinarily meet these requirements.

A. S elf-Proprietorship.

1. Enrollment

Eligible veterans, with employment objectives of "farmer" (farm manager or farm operator) will be enrolled in a full-time course with an agricultural school or an agricultural teaching agency which institution must

provide satisfactory organized instruction in agriculture and related subject matter in the classroom, laboratory, shop or other satisfactory facility and additional operational instruction on the veteran's farm.

2. Training program.

A training program will be prepared by the Veterans Administration training officer with the assistance of the teaching agency, the Veterans Administration Agricultural Training Committee, and the veteran, which program will include organized classroom instruction and operational instruction, both based on a complete farm and home plan. The farm and home plan will be developed, after the trainee's farm has been surveyed, to include:

a. Financial statement.

b. Budget of income and expenses.

c. Schedule of production and disposal of crops, livestock, and livestock products.

d. Inventory of livestock, equipment and supplies.

e. Statement of family living to be furnished by the farm.

3. Farm Requirements

Before approving a farm as a proper place for a trainee to take the on-farm portion of his course of training, the Veterans Administration should be assured of these general requirements.

a. The veteran must have complete control of the operation of the farm through ownership, lease, management agreement, or other tenure arrangement which fully protects the welfare of the veteran.

b. The farm must be of sufficient size and suitability for full-time instruction in all farm management operations necessary to the particular type of farming selected and of sufficient size and suitability so that the operation of it together with the course of training will occupy the full time of the trainee.

c. The size and quality of the farm must indicate that it will be sufficiently productive to insure the trainee a satisfactory income under normal conditions at the end of the training program.

4. Instructional Requirements.

The veteran shall be enrolled with the institution for a full-time course of instruction including:

a. Off-farm instruction of not less than 200 hours per year in agriculture and related subject matter, not less than eight hours of which shall be given in any month.

b. On-farm instruction of not less that 100 hours per year, at least 50% of which must be made applicable specifically to the veteran's individual farm by visits of not less than twice a month.

c. Instruction, guidance and assignments of work and study covering all phases of the operation of the farm between visits of the instructor.

The instruction both on and off the farm must be given at a time, rate and in a manner best suited to the needs of the trainee as indicated by his farm and home plan and the operation of the plan.

In order to properly assist the veteran to organize, interpret and apply instructions and information to his own needs and farm conditions, the instructor who gives the on-farm instruction should also give the off-farm instruction.

5. Supervision by the Veterans Administration.

Veterans Administration Agriculutral Training Officers are required to supervise all veterans in training. This shall include visits to the farm at least once a month and visits as frequent as feasible to the off-the farm classes. The training officer will coordinate his supervision of the trainee with the agriculture teacher, who will assist the training officer in determining the conduct of the trainee and his progress toward rehabilitation. This type of training should be carefully appraised to determine if the instruction:

a. Is timely and is based on the trainee's farm and home plan.

b. Is of a practical nature and in accord with recommended local farm practices.

c. Assists the veteran to solve his current problems.

d. Develops the trainee's ability to make plans and to make managerial decisions relative to the management and operation of the farm.

e. Is making maximum use of the information and services available to the trainee from other agricultural and educational agencies.

B. Training under and Employer-Trainer.

1. Enrollment.

An eligible veteran whose employment objective as an employee is "farm foreman", "farm manager", or "farm hand" will enroll for a full-time course of instruction with an agricultural school or agricultural teaching agency, which institution must provide on-farm instruction and organized instruction in agriculture and related subject matter in the classroom laboratory, shop or other satisfactory facility. In addition, the Veterans Administration will secure under Form 1904 agreement, a successful operating farmer who will train the veteran in all the elements of an adequate individual training program, under his direction, and pay the trainee a wage commensurate with the value of his services under training conditions. The employer-trainer will agree to cooperate with the institution, with which the trainee is enrolled, in order to effect maximum results with the training program.

2. Training Program

A training program will be prepared by the training officer with the assistance of the teaching agency and the Veterans Agricultural Training Committee. The program will provide:

a. Organized classroom instruction.

b. Instruction on the job.

c. Coordination of "a" and "b" by the instructio of the institution with which the trainee is enrolled.

3. Selection of the Employer-Trainer.

Selection of the employer-trainer is the resonsibility of the Veterans Administration and approval will be given on an individual basis with full consideration for the direct relationship to the trainee and his ultimate rehabilitation.

Farmers who have demonstrated their ability as outstanding general farmers or as farmers who have successfully specialized in phases of the occupation pertinent to the trainee's objective and who possess the ability necessary to assist in the training of the veteran will be approved to provide the on-the-job portion of the course. The employer-trainer's farm should be of sufficient size and suitability for full-time instruction.

4. Instructional Requirements.

The veteran shall be enrolled with the institution for a full-time course of instruction, including:

a. Off-farm instruction of not less than 200 hours per year in agriculture and related subject matter, and not less than eight hours of which shall be given in any month.

b. On farm instruction by the instructor of the institution of at least 50 hours per year and not less than one farm visit per month. This instruction will include the relating of the off-farm instruction with that which the trainee receives from the employer-trainer.

c. Instruction from the employer-trainer invarious farm operations, as indicated by the trainee's Training Program Form 1905a.

The instruction both on and off the farm must be given at a time, rate, and in a manner best suited to the needs of the trainee as indicated by his individual training program.

In order to properly assist the veteran to organizw, interpret and apply instruction and information to his own needs and farm conditions, the instructor who gives the instruction on the farm must also give the off-farm instruction.

5. Supervision by the Veterans Administration.

Veterans A dministration Agricultural Training Officers are required to supervise all veterans training in agriculture. This shall include visits to the farm at least once a month. The Training Officer will coordinate his supervision of the trainee with the agriculture teacher who will assist the training officer in determining the conduct of the trainee and his progress toward rehabilitation.

This type of training should be carefully appraised to determine:

a. If the instruction is timely, practical, and in accord with recommended local farm practices.

b. If the instruction off-the farm is being related to that which the trainee is receiving from the employer-trainer.

c. If the trainee is receiving compensation commensurate with his services under training conditions.

d. If the employer-trainer is instructing the trainee in all the different phases of his training program as listed on Form 1905a.

e. If the course of instruction is making maximum use of the information and services available to the trainee from other agricultural and educational agencies.

IV. Training Veterans On Farms Under Plan Described in Paragraph I-3 above. Public 346, 78th C ongress.

Training under this plan, offered to veterans eligible under Public 346, may follow the same pattern as outlined for veterans eligible under Public 16. In accordance with the Law and Regulations, the following fundamental differences must be observed::

1. The course of instruction will be provided by agricultural schools or other teaching agencies which have been approved by the appropriate state agency for giving this type of training under Public Law 346.

2. Selection of the course which the veteran desires is a matter of his own choice.

3. The length of the training period is determined by the predetermined length of the course and by the extent of his entitlement under the law.

4. Preparation of the training program will be the primary responsibility of the institution offering the course.

5. Approval of the farm and/or the selection of the employer-trainer, where the veteran will receive his on-the-job instruction, will be the responsibility of the training agency.

Vet d'agri

IF YOU'RE THINKING OF
A Little Place in the Country

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics

AIS–14

IF YOU'RE THINKING OF A Little Place in the Country

By A. B. Genung, *agricultural economist*
Bureau of Agricultural Economics

MANY VETERANS AND OTHERS are wondering about the possibility of working at jobs in town but living out in the country, within driving distance, where they can have a little land, a few chickens, and a garden. They want to know what the prospects are for such part-time farming after the war.

The answer, in a nutshell, is that the prospects for that kind of country life are good. The United States is rich in just such opportunity. We have the combination of a large number of widely spaced industrial towns, paved highways, and widespread ownership of automobiles, which makes it possible. Moreover, some of the chief hazards which face the large-scale, commercial farmer are escaped by the man who grows things for home use mostly and whose main income comes from his job in town.

All told, this idea is a good one—good for the people who like it and for the community at large.

The following instances will give a little glimpse at how some such ventures in part-time farming have worked out.

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Joe and His 10 Acres

LET US CALL the first man Joe Smith. That is not his name but it is near enough. Joe is about 40 years old, has three young children, works in a factory making chains and gears.

He had had enough of life in a city flat. About 6 years ago he bought a "farm" near a small village 10 miles from his work. It had a house—none too large and none too good, but comfortable—a small and rather dilapidated barn, 10 acres of cleared land, and a stretch of woods that came nearly up to the house on one side. It was a little like a pioneer homestead.

Joe had about $1,200 saved up. He makes somewhere around $50 a week and saves money. He has Saturday afternoons and Sundays off. He paid $900 cash for his new home.

The first year he bought a Jersey cow with one injured quarter—that is, she gave milk from three teats. He paid only $35 for her. The cow was already bred, and from her he raised a fine heifer calf. He still has that old cow, with three heifers from her in 6 years.

Having some skimmed milk to feed, he naturally started keeping a couple of pigs and some chickens soon after he bought the cow. Now he has 2 sows and sells 20 or 25 young pigs a year besides fattening and killing 2 or 3 shoats for family meat.

Joe hired his land worked until 3 years ago, when he bought a small tractor and outfit, including plow, harrow, mower, and rake. He gradually acquired at auctions a wagon with box and hayrack, and various other tools needed around a farm, so that in latter years he has done virtually all his own work on the land.

At odd times he has been able, by himself, to make some repairs and add improvements to the buildings. In such fashion, working in installments, he got the barn fixed up and a new roof on it. Incidentally, the scaffolding for that job as well as some other jobs on the home and hen house was all made of poles cut from the woods. He has a very good barnyard fence likewise made of peeled poles—looks something like a western corral.

His woods are a constant reservoir of useful things. The family goes to the woods for firewood, fence posts, huckleberries, nuts, leaves for bedding in dry season, and Christmas trees—not to mention rabbits, pheasants, and a deer nearly every fall. No need to keep tame rabbits, for he can go out with a shotgun and knock over one in the woods for table use almost any evening in the season.

Joe's one tillable field is patterned off in different crops much like a larger farm—in this case soybeans, corn, oats, and grass. He usually has to get some extra hay from a neighbor to carry his cows through the winter; this is always obtainable on shares or in exchange for work with his tractor.

Out between house and barn lies the garden, and a splendid garden it is. Mrs. Smith puts up hundreds of cans of vegetables and fruit—and meat—every summer and of course the family "lives out of the garden" all summer.

The springhouse is near the garden. Joe now has that excellent spring water piped into the kitchen.

It must be admitted that this isn't one of those complete "3 acres and liberty" stories that you read about. They don't make an easy living from goats, bees, squabs, nor mushrooms. There isn't anything very romantic about this place. It is just an ordinary worker's home along the road.

But, by and large, how has Joe's venture in country living worked out? The answer is, extremely well. That is the sub-

stance of his own verdict and that of his wife.

They live more cheaply. In town they paid $35 a month for a very modest apartment. Carfare was about $5 a month, clothes were a larger item, and of course every morsel of food meant a cash outlay.

Now, there is no rent to pay. Taxes and insurance on the "farm" amount to about $75 a year, roughly $6 to $7 a month.

On the whole, the Joe Smiths live more comfortably. They will not have a bathroom for a while—that is the one big disadvantage—but otherwise they have more room, are warmer in winter, far cooler in hot weather, have a cellar and ample other storage space, and "all outdoors" to use in summer. They think they enjoy a better diet now than formerly. They have plenty of cream and butter as well as milk, they have fresh eggs, chicken when they want it, pork and veal of their own raising, and vegetables and fruit in abundance. Mrs. Joe says there are weeks at a time when the only groceries she buys are such things as oranges, coffee, sugar, and salt.

The children go to school in

the nearby village. Mrs. Smith is quite certain that they lead a healthier and more wholesome life in the country than they did in town. Each child has certain chores to do around the place. They play outdoors the year round and their playgrounds are the fields, the woods, and the stream—rather than traffic-ridden streets, vacant lots, and movies. She thinks the country is the place to bring up children.

Of course Joe has to have a car to drive to and from work and the expense of that travel more than offsets trolley fare in town. But when gas is available they have a lot of family pleasure out of the car. In town they didn't have one, largely because of no place to keep it and the feeling that there it was an unwarranted luxury. It takes Joe about 20 minutes to drive to work—about the same time it used to take in town by trolley car and afoot. They are on a macadam road, which is cleaned of snow in winter, so there is no difficulty about getting out.

Summing it all up, the Joe Smiths consider that they did a wise thing when they moved out to their little "farm." They would not go back to life in town unless forced to by circumstances beyond their control. The one big thing they both emphasize about their life in the country is its independence. They have a feeling that now they can weather economic storms like pay cuts or temporary lay-offs without much worry. The elemental necessaries of life are under better control now. No landlord is going to turn them outdoors on 30 days' notice. They have fuel and food and "what it takes" for their family to live comfortably for a long time without much cash income. At least, that's the way they feel about it.

Apples to Pay Expenses

George Jackson works in the mechanical department of an eastern city newspaper. He was born on a farm. After he married and had lived in the city for several years, he finally decided to get out into the country. His family agreed. He has a large family—six children, the oldest boy is 16. A main thought that prompted the move was that the family could get along easier, have more breathing space and a better living out on some land than they could hope for when cooped up in a little house in town.

With the help of a farmer friend he located a 60-acre place about 9 miles out of town. It has one of those well-built old houses, a product of the days when plenty of lumber was there for the cut-

ting—big and sturdy, though badly needing paint and certain repairs. The barn was poor and the other outbuildings were run down. The land slopes gently up a hillside from the highway. For this place George paid down $1,000 cash and gave a mortgage for $2,000 more.

George's farmer friend, an older, experienced man with a lot of common sense, helped to steer him in the beginning and probably saved him from some mistakes. He avoided one common error—to jump in and try to show the world how to make quick money out of some unusual thing like rabbits or squabs, or mink or bees or some other fad. All he did the first year or so was to fix up the house. His idea was primarily to make a home in the country, not really to run a farm as a commercial proposition.

Gradually he did get together a nice flock of Rhode Island Red hens, bought a Guernsey cow, which the oldest boy learned to take care of, and a couple of pigs. Now, after 8 years on the place, that is still about the extent of the livestock—2 cows, 2 pigs, 100 hens, and a few guinea hens and ducks. The youngsters also have a pony and assorted rabbits and other pets.

But there was one real asset on the place, an apple orchard of some 125 trees, chiefly Baldwins, McIntosh, and Delicious. It had grown up to weeds and the trees had not been disturbed by a pruning saw in a dozen years at least. Yet those trees were right in their prime. When George saw them in blossom the first May after he bought the place, he was fired with enthusiasm to make something of that little orchard.

He went to the county agricultural agent, wrote to his State agricultural college and to Washington for bulletins, talked to nearby farmers who had orchards. In short, he set about getting some real education in apple growing. His old friend up the road played a part, too, helping him prune the trees in odd spells one winter, advising him about materials and tillage and lending him a spraying machine. In time, with the expenditure of some hard work and a little worry the Jackson orchard became what might fairly be called a model of good husbandry.

For the last 3 or 4 years George has sold his apples "on the tree" to a local buyer. That is, the buyer pays so much, lump sum, sends his own pickers, baskets, and truck, and assumes the entire job of harvesting. Last year when apples were high the crop was sold in such fashion to this buyer for $500. George doesn't have to touch the orchard after the final spraying is done.

The rest of his land he rents out to a neighbor who uses the

pasture and furnishes him with enough hay to keep the cows. There is a good wood lot back on one corner, from which George gets his wood for kitchen stove and fireplace and even cuts a few pine and hardwood logs most every winter and has them sawed up into rough lumber for repair work.

The two oldest children ride into town every day with their father to attend high school. The younger ones who go to school walk about a mile to a district school located at a little crossroads village. Here also is a general store where Mrs. Jackson buys part of her supplies; here they go to church, attend Grange meeting, haul logs to sawmill.

The Jacksons are devoted to their little farm. They are especially attached to their home—and well they may be, for under the influence of paint, repairs, shrubs, and flowers, the fine old house has come to life there amid its noble trees in a way to inspire pride in any owner. It is a big house. Every youngster has his or her own bedroom, they have installed a bathroom, and in the kitchen are all the conveniences that a reasonable housewife could wish for.

"And to think," remarks Mrs. Jackson, "that all those years before we came up here I didn't even have a place to hang out the Monday washing!"

Of course they have a big garden. Mrs. Jackson takes you down cellar in the fall and shows with pride long rows of canned food, hams and sides of bacon hanging overhead, vegetables and

fruit in the bins, cider in casks, and innumerable good things to take a hungry family through winter.

"There is no question that we live more cheaply, have a greater variety of food, and of better quality than we used to in the city," she says. That is her view of the matter, whatever anyone else may think.

George still doesn't regard himself as much of a farmer. His job is in town. He looks upon the farm as a home, a place to be outdoors after the confinement of his daily job around the presses, and finally as a place where they can grow a good part of their own food and fuel, and where the children can have a more wholesome life than they could have in the city.

Nevertheless, he has done well with the small orchard. It now pays the taxes, insurance, ordinary repairs, and virtually all similar expenses of the "farm."

He has paid off $1,000 of his mortgage and he has money and war bonds sufficient to pay the other half of it soon. He now feels pretty independent.

Incidentally, George has evidence, too, that buying his farm wasn't a bad investment, purely

as a financial proposition. One night he stopped for gas at the roadside station owned by a neighbor. As usual they spent a few minutes chatting and swapping news.

Presently the neighbor said casually, "Say, George, you wouldn't be interested in selling your place, would you?"

"Nope." The answer was prompt. As an afterthought he added, "Wife wouldn't hear of it."

"Well, I didn't suppose you would. But I've thought a good many times I'd kind of like to have it. Ought to've bought it a long time ago, back there before you came along. Matter of fact, I hope you folks'll stay right here in the neighborhood as long as you live. But just in case you should ever happen to take a notion to sell out sometime—keep me in mind."

And then he added casually, "I'll give you five thousand cash any time."

The Jacksons won't sell their home. But it makes George feel good to think that probably he could almost double his money on it.

The Man Who Bit off a Little More Than He Could Chew

Here is the case of a man who was perhaps a little too ambitious in his farming ideas. Peter Jones works in a typewriter plant. Several years ago he bought an acre of land along one of the main roads into town and built a small bungalow on it. His wife also works in town and this has been their home ever since. They have no children. Both enjoy life out in the open country; their cottage is nicely situated and has a little stream running behind it, where they have fixed a swimming place and have a canoe.

Two years ago the farm almost across the road from Peter's house came on the market cheap. He got the notion that he would like to buy it and launch out into some real farming operations. So he did. He paid down about $1,000 cash and gave a mortgage for about $1,500 more—this being the cost of 75 acres of rather poor land with a run-down set of buildings. With the place he acquired a tractor and a few tools, plus three cows, and some young stock.

Now of course Peter didn't have time enough to do the work on his new farm himself. His original acre of land with garden and fruit trees had just given him good exercise after work, but to run the larger farm business required help. He managed to hire a man who stayed a month and then went off on a prolonged drunk. Peter

fired him and hired an elderly man who was sober and industrious but not very strong.

It took quite a bit of money to make necessary repairs on the new farm. The house had to have a new roof, the cow stable a new concrete floor, and he had to do some cement work and painting in the milkhouse, including a new concrete trough for cooling the milk. It took money to get the first year's crops under way. Seed had to be bought, and fertilizer; also some feed had to be bought before the pasture season, and the hired man had to have his wages regularly during the whole of that first summer when very little money was coming in.

At the end of the year the elderly hired man was sick and had to leave. There were six cows now in the stable and Peter found himself having to get up long before dawn, milk these and do the chores, and get the milk ready to go before he and his wife started for work. At night he had to hurry home and repeat. This went on for several weeks in the dead of winter, with zero weather and snowdrifts to make it interesting, before he could find another hired man.

This third chapter in the hired-help story lasted 3 months. When it came to finding help thereafter he was forced to use the services of a teen-age boy who was a good

milker and willing worker but who could not take the place of a man in the general field work. Peter just about worked himself out trying to get the crops harvested and keep his farm enterprise a going concern. The time came in the fall when the boy helper was drafted, and once more Peter faced the prospect of another winter of farm chores on top of his daily job in the shop.

This was too much. Peter recalled that life on 1 acre had been very pleasant, but with these extra 75 acres life was nothing but drudgery and he was getting nothing out of it either. The upshot was that he had an auction and sold off all of his livestock and most of the tools and crops on hand. Now he has the farm advertised for sale and looks forward to the day when his "farming" will again consist of a garden, a few fruit trees, a flock of chickens —and time to use the swimming pool and canoe that are waiting back of the house.

Fish Story

A good many of us like to fish but never have the opportunity to do much fishing. Here's the little story of a man who liked to fish—and did something about it.

Sam White is a tinsmith work-

ing in a hardware store in a small city. He has three children. He and his wife are both country-minded. Though reared in town. they decided to abandon crowded town life. They had saved several hundred dollars and so began looking around for a little place with some land.

Now it happens that Sam's town lies at the head of a long and lovely lake. What more natural than that a born fisherman—who had spent many happy hours on those waters—should turn his inquiring eye down the shores of the lake?

Hunt as he might, Sam couldn't find a cottage or farm for sale within 10 miles of town on either side of the lake. What he did finally was to buy 10 acres of land off the corner of a farm. The place had a few rods of lake frontage and sloped back up a gently rising hillside, with a tiny wood lot along one side.

The land cost about $500 cash. From a mail-order house Sam then bought, on easy payments, one of those ready-cut bungalows—five small rooms and bath; cost complete with bathroom, plumbing, and furnace $2,500. When it was finally erected on a good cellar wall, and had porches and walks outside, it stood him in some $2,800 above the cost of the lot. Of course, during wartime one couldn't build the house as cheaply as this.

The first summer Sam got a good well drilled, a little chicken house built, and started a flock of leghorns. And naturally, he made a big garden. It wasn't any prize winner that first year, but with liberal use of manure it did fairly well, even though it had necessarily been started on sod ground. In time this was to become a garden really worth seeing.

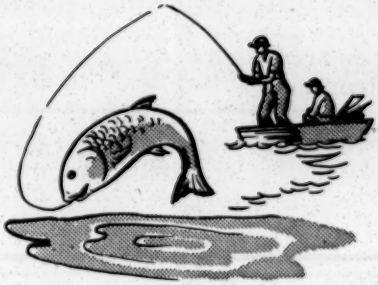
That fall he found a small, unused barn which he bought for the lumber. Working at odd times, he took the barn down and got it hauled to his own place. The following spring he proceeded to build himself a respectable little barn, using the best of the old lumber and buying some new material as needed.

Next came a cow. This he bought from the farmer who had sold him the land, with the understanding that bull service would be furnished when needed.

So now Sam White had become a sort of small-time farmer on the side. He was tinsmith all day and farmer (or fisherman) nights, mornings, and week ends. As he

was pretty successful with his garden and chickens, he presently found himself with a few odd things to sell—vegetables, eggs, broilers—over and above all that the family wanted to use. So it got to be a regular thing to take some of this stuff to town with him every morning. It sold readily to friends right in the store where he worked; in fact, he soon had a string of customers putting in advance orders.

Of course, the rest of this little story would be like thousands of others. Sam and his family are confirmed country folks now. They get a large part of their living from their own place, live in a good neighborhood, and have a comfortable home in a truly magnificent setting of lake and hills. Driving to and from work he regards as more pleasure than bother—the main road is only a quarter of a mile from his house and it takes only 15 minutes to reach town. On the few days in winter when the snow in his lane



is too deep he leaves his car with a neighbor on the main road.

About the only thing that is unique about this place is its location on that beautiful lake—with bass, pike, and perch right off Sam's dock, and lake trout out there in the deeper water. He has built a sort of breakwater and little harbor in front, and there sit his boats and minnow tanks and other fisherman's contraptions. Stop for supper with the White family and the chances are that you'll be treated to fried chicken or baked fresh trout. Either way you are likely to endorse Sam's judgment in having moved out to that little paradise!

Here's the Point

These brief samples are cited with the idea of bringing out informally certain points about this matter of part-time farming. Veterans or others who are thinking about working at jobs in town and at the same time living out in the country might perhaps find it worth while to ponder some of these points.

1. It *is* possible, practicable, and profitable for many a man to work in a moderate-sized or small city and live out where he can have a few acres of land and what goes with it. Thousands of city workers are actually doing this very thing, with pleasure and benefit to themselves and their families.

2. Remember, it takes money to own a farm, however small. You ought to have a little saved up—$500, say; $1,000 would be better. Veterans and many others can get credit, of course. But in the long run there isn't any real reserve outside your own money.

If you haven't any money at all, you better not try to buy a place. Rent one.

3. A great deal depends upon your judgment in choosing a home place. Be sure to get on an all-weather road; and see that the place has a fairly comfortable house, good water supply, and electricity in or near. If you ignore any of those four things, you'll be sorry.

4. Don't try to undertake more farming than you can handle. That is one of the most common mistakes. If your job in town is really the main thing, keep it so in your plans. Don't think of the "farm" as anything more than a secondary job. Don't aim, at first anyhow, for much more than a good garden and perhaps a few hens. Later you may want pigs, cow, more poultry, and fruit. But don't get yourself "out on a limb" at the very start.

5. Do a lot of thinking about the future of your job before you anchor yourself to a little country place. If the job should fold up, is it a place that you could sell readily if you wanted to move somewhere else? Few part-time farms will return a living unless there is a dependable source of outside income.

6. Take your time about buying a farm, whether 1 acre or 100. Talk it over with your wife. Talk it over again and again. When, as, and if you get up to the point of really wanting to find such a place, look around. Then look around some more. Keep on looking. Don't let any glib seller persuade you to take something off on a dirt side road; or something that hasn't electricity right close by, or good water, or a fairly good house, or that costs too much. You'll find what you want if you look long enough.

7. Finally, if you want to live on the land, *go to it!* With ordinary common sense used in getting established, and with pluck and a willing family, it's a life fit for a king!

Some Sources of Information

You can, of course, get information from many sources about this subject of part-time farming. Write to your State college of agriculture, or to the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C., or to the county agricultural agent at the county seat of the county in which you are interested.

Samples of interesting bulletins already published are these:

Shall We Move to the Country? Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station Circular 479, Urbana, Ill.

Suggestions to Purchasers of Farms. Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletin 309, University Farm, St. Paul, Minn.

Suggestions to Persons Who Plan to Farm or to Live in the Country. New York Agricultural College (Cornell) Extension Bulletin 652, Ithaca, N. Y.

Buying a Farm in Western Oregon. Oregon Agricultural College Extension Bulletin 635, Corvallis, Oreg.

Part-time Farming. U. S. Department of Agriculture, Farmers' Bulletin No. 1966, Washington, D. C.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1945

"SHALL I BE A FARMER AFTER THE WAR" Occupational

Fisk

June 19, 1945

Dr. Giles Hubert
Fisk University
Nashville, Tennessee

Dear Giles:

I have missed out a month on the column. I must ask you to let me off for that month, but I will try to come back into the swim before the tenth of July. I have had so much changing around that I have not been able to think up a column and have not had time to write one.

I got another local of the Farmers Union going in North Carolina the other day. The Indians organized it, but the consensus was that it was better for the new members, all of whom live in a colored neighborhood called Beautyspot, N. C., to get their own charter. They will be welcome at the meetings of the Indian local and vice versa.

The first seven who joined the new local are listed below. The address of each of them is RFD #1, Elrod, N. C.

I think all or most of them would subscribe to your paper if you wrote them a letter. You should in fairness, however, point out that yours is not the Farmers Union paper (which they have already subscribed to) but simply that it is a good paper that they can get help from. I expect about twenty more to join in a short while. If you care to, write to John Bunyan Locklear, RFD #1, Maxton, N. C., for the names of those who join later at Beautyspot. I should think he would be glad to give you their names. If you write Locklear, tell him that I suggested that you so write for the new names. If you send Locklear a sample of the paper he and some of his friends may subscribe also.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

Members of the new local at Beautyspot, N. C.

A. R. McNain
Willie Graham
Mrs. Harriet Crosby
Mrs. Lawrence Fladger
Ted Graham
Laura G. Moore
Wilson Hamilton

Fisk

June 22, 1945

Dr. Giles Hubert
Fisk University
Nashville, Tennessee

Dear Giles:

On a recent trip to Washington I interested John I. Armstrong in the Modern Farmer.

If you will send him a sample copy and a bill, he will become a subscriber.

Ensign John I Armstrong
411 North Thomas Street
Arlington, Virginia

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Fisk

June 25, 1945

Dr. Charles Johnson
Fisk University
Nashville, Tennessee

Dear Dr. Johnson:

I have been traveling so much that I had only today answered your letters of June 2nd and 8th about the Institute. Before the letter went out your letter of June 23rd came. I wired you as follows:

> Re your letter June 23 shall be in Nashville Monday July 9 and Monday night. Subject, "Southern Labor Unions". Shall also be Nashville July seventeenth-nineteenth inclusive for panels.

If later on you wish some change, let me know.

I look forward to seeing so many friends at the meetings.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

FISK UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
NASHVILLE, 8, TENNESSEE

CHARLES S. JOHNSON
DIRECTOR

June 23, 1945

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Southern Regional Council
63 Auburn Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

In drawing our lines a little closer on the Institute program, to which you have very kindly committed yourself, may I say that we have you scheduled for one general assembly lecture on some aspects of labor relations in the South in relation to race relations; and for participation in panels and seminars on employment and on returning veterans.

Would you care to let me have, at your earliest convenience, by wire if possible, by letter if necessary, the title of your choice for the assembly presentation.

I am not sure how long you feel you could stay here. As you will note from the bulletin, something will be happening of high moment (in my opinion anyhow) every day; but as our schedule happens to be laid out, we are turning attention full blast to the South during the third week, and we were hopeful of having you active in the panels dealing with Southern labor movements and with politics and suffrage rights. What is your pleasure, and what is your convenience.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Charles S. Johnson

csj-p

Your General Assembly presentation is scheduled for Monday, July 9th and the other panels on the 18th. Is this too broad a gap for your convenience?

FISK UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
NASHVILLE, 8, TENNESSEE

CHARLES S. JOHNSON
DIRECTOR

June 8, 1945

Dr. George S. Mitchell, Regional Director
CIO Political Action Committee
75 Ivy Street, N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

I would like to follow up now, more in detail, the special arrangement of the program of our Institute of Race Relations, in which you have been good enough to consent to take part. You are scheduled for the third week of July. We are giving major stress this year to panel and seminar discussions and cross-topical round tables in which our specialists are expected to take part. However, we very much want from you, in addition to participation in the discussions, one major presentation, the exact title of which I would like to have at your earliest convenience, for the daily schedule of lectures.

The subjects under discussion during the third week will include a study of the role of the press in race relations; trends and prospects for postwar southern economy; and the role of education in race relations. A detailed statement of the course of study will be found in the enclosed announcement.

With cordial good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Charles S. Johnson

csj-w

FISK UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
NASHVILLE, 8, TENNESSEE

CHARLES S. JOHNSON
DIRECTOR

June 2, 1945

Dr. George S. Mitchell, Regional Director
CIO Political Action Committee
75 Ivy Street, N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

When your letter of May 9th reached my office I was out of the city, which will explain this tardy acknowledgment. We are all very glad indeed that you will be able to have a part in the Institute of Race Relations, and are looking forward eagerly to your coming.

In keeping with your instructions to put you down for whatever days that would fit into the schedule, we shall be counting on you for the panels and seminars which fall during the third week of July -- especially the 18th and 19th -- and it is quite possible that we shall also want an evening lecture.

During the two days mentioned there will be seminars and panels dealing with trends and prospects of postwar southern economy. The range of discussion hoped for would include the effects of mechanization upon southern agriculture; postwar migration and problems of resettlement; postwar industry and urban development of the South; the future of organized labor, agricultural cooperatives and farmers organizations and the implications for Negro-white relations; prospects for the extension of suffrage rights in the South, the "white primary" and the poll tax; political action and southern labor.

With regard to the panels, I might say that they will require a brief presentation of about twenty minutes on the part of each participant.

I shall be sending on more detailed information within the next few days.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Charles S. Johnson

csj-p

Fiske

Charge to the account of Southern Regional Council, 63 Auburn Avenue, NE $

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PRESIDENT

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FOR VICTORY
BUY
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TODAY

Dr. Charles Johnson
Fisk University
Nashville, Tennessee

RE YOUR LETTER JUNE 25 SHALL BE IN NASHVILLE MONDAY JULY 9 AND MONDAY NIGHT. SUBJECT SOUTHERN LABOR UNIONS. SHALL ALSO BE NASHVILLE JULY SEVENTEENTH NINETEENTH INCLUSIVE FOR PANELS.

George S. Mitchell

FISK UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
NASHVILLE, 8, TENNESSEE

CHARLES S. JOHNSON
DIRECTOR

June 27, 1945

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Southern Regional Council
Room 432 -- 63 Auburn Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

Thank you for your letter of the 25th. We shall be expecting you for the 9th and again from the 17th to the 19th.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Charles S. Johnson

csj-p

THIRD ANNUAL

INSTITUTE OF RACE RELATIONS

American Missionary Association

July 1-20, 1946

WHO'S WHO

Lecturers, Consultants and Discussion Leaders

Will W. Alexander -- Formerly Director, Farm Security Administration; Director of the Southern Regional Council; Vice-President, Julius Rosenwald Fund.

Gordon W. Allport -- Chairman, Department of Psychology, Harvard University; Editor, Journal of Abnormal and Social Psychology; Author: Personality, a Psychological Interpretation, The Psychology of Radio.

Ethel Alpenfels -- Specialist in Anthropology, Bureau for Intercultural Education.

Howard Andos -- Manager, Nashville United States Employment Service.

Clarence Bacote -- Professor of History, Atlanta University, Atlanta, Georgia.

Belle Boone Beard -- Chairman, Department of Sociology, Sweet Briar College; Visiting Professor of Sociology, Vanderbilt University.

Gordon W. Blackwell -- Director, Institute for Research in Social Sciences, The University of North Carolina.

Cleo W. Blackburn -- Superintendent, Flanner House, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Smiley Blanton, M.D. -- Associate Professor of Clinical Psychology, Vanderbilt University; Director of Consultation Clinic, Marble Collegiate Church, New York City.

Henry S. Bloker -- Assistant State Veteran's Employment Representative, Region VII.

George W. Brooks -- Director, Department of Research and Education, International Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphate and Paper Mill Workers, A.F. of L.

Ina C. Brown -- Professor of Social Anthropology, Scarritt College for Christian Workers, Nashville, Tennessee; Author: National Survey of the Higher Education of Negroes.

Fred L. Brownlee -- General Secretary, American Missionary Association Division of the Board of Home Missions, Congregational and Christian Churches.

Mabel Carney -- Professor of Education Emeritus, Teachers College, Columbia University.

Roy K. Davenport -- Assistant to the Chief Psychologist, The Adjutant General's Office, War Department, Washington, D. C.

Annie Lee Davis -- Consultant on Social Services, Social Service Division, Children's Bureau, United States Department of Labor, Washington, D. C.

Lipscomb Davis -- Davis Cabinet Company, Nashville, Tennessee.

Albert W. Dent -- President, Dillard University, New Orleans, Louisiana.

J. Lawrence Duncan -- Chief of Minority Group Services, United States Employment Service, Kentucky, Ohio and Michigan.

Kermit Eby -- Director, Department of Education and Research, CIO.

Marion Edman -- School Consultant, Bureau for Intercultural Education.

Edwin R. Embree -- President, Julius Rosenwald Fund; Chairman, Mayor's Committee on Race Relations, Chicago; Author: Brown Americans; 13 Against the Odds.

James C. Evans -- Assistant Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War, War Department, Washington, D. C.

Buell G. Gallagher -- Professor of Christian Ethics, Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley, California.

Lester B. Granger -- Executive Secretary, National Urban League.

Thomas D. Hook -- Vice-President, Black Box Photo and Collotype Company, Inc., Chicago, Illinois.

John Hope II -- Specialist on Industrial Relations, Social Science Institute, Fisk University.

Frank Horne -- Racial Relations Adviser to the Commissioner, National Housing Agency, Federal Public Housing Authority, Washington, D.C.

Charles H. Houston -- Vice-President and Consultant, American Council on Race Relations; Legal Counsel, NAACP.

DeHart Hubbard -- Racial Relations Adviser, National Housing Agency, Federal Public Housing Authority, Cleveland.

F. M. Isserman -- Rabbi, Temple Israel, St. Louis, Missouri; Chairman, Commission on Social Justice, Central Conference of American Rabbis.

Paul Jessen -- State Director, Tennessee United States Employment Service.

Guy B. Johnson -- Executive Director, The Southern Regional Council.

Saburo Kido -- President, Japanese American Citizens League.

Samuel C. Kincheloe -- Professor and Director of Research in the Sociology of Religion, The Chicago Theological Seminary.

Frayser T. Lane -- Civic Director, Chicago Urban League; Contributor to various periodicals on social and civic problems of Negroes.

Charles R. Lawrence, Jr. -- Staff Member, Race Relations Department, American Missionary Association; Associate Editor, A Monthly Summary of Events and Trends in Race Relations.

A. A. Liveright -- Executive Director, American Council on Race Relations.

Herman H. Long -- Field Supervisor, Race Relations Department, American Missionary Association.

James G. Maddox -- Special Assistant to the Chief, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Arnold Maremont -- Executive Vice President, Maremont Automotive Products, Chicago.

Julius Mark -- Rabbi, Vine Street Temple, Nashville, Tennessee.

Frank McCallister -- Director, Georgia Workers Education Service, Atlanta, Georgia.

Booker T. McGraw -- Housing Analyst, National Housing Agency, Washington,D.C.

Alexander F. Miller -- Director, Southeastern Region, Anti-Defamation League of B'nai , Atlanta, Georgia

Fred C. Milner -- Colonel, Personnel Research and Procedures Branch, Adjutant General's Office, War Department, Washington, D. C.

M. F. Ashley Montagu -- Formerly Research Associate, British Museum of Natural History; Anthropologist, Division of Child Research, New York University; now Associate Professor of Anatomy, Hahnemann Medical College and Hospital, Philadelphia: Author: Man's Most Dangerous Myth: The Fallacy of Race.

Henry Lee Moon -- Adviser on Minority Relations, Political Action Committee, CIO.

R. Maurice Moss -- Executive Secretary, Urban League of Pittsburgh.

Jennings Perry -- Editor, Nashville Tennessean, Nashville, Tennessee; Chairman, National Committee to Abolish the Poll Tax.

Gitel Poznanski -- Visiting Professor of Anthropology, Fisk University.

P. L. Prattis -- Executive Editor, The Pittsburgh Courier.

Arthur F. Raper -- Social Science Analyst, Division of Farm Population and Rural Welfare, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.; Author: Tenants of the Almighty, Preface to Peasantry.

Ira De A. Reid (Co-ordinator of Discussion Groups) -- Chairman, Department of Sociology, Atlanta University; Author: In a Minor Key, Sharecroppers All, The Urban Negro in the United States.

Warren B. Robeson-- Field Supervisor, United States Employment Service, Administrative Office, Region VII.

Ross Sanderson -- Director of Field Research, The Board of Home Missions, Congregational and Christian Churches.

William Shell -- Placement Specialist, Southern Regional Office, United States Employment Service.

Myra A. Smith -- Executive, Department of Data and Trends, National Board, Y.W.C.A.

T. V. Smith -- Professor of Philosophy, The University of Chicago; Editor: International Journal of Ethics.

Hilda Taba -- Professor of Education, The University of Chicago; Director, Intergroup Education in Cooperating Schools, American Council on Education.

Robert R. Taylor -- Chairman, Chicago Housing Authority; Member, Mayor's Committee on Race Relations, Chicago.

Charles H. Thompson -- Dean, Graduate School, Howard University; Editor, Journal of Negro Education.

Mrs. M. E. Tilley -- Secretary, Christian Social Relations and Local Church Activities, Woman's Society of Christian Service, Southeastern Jurisdiction, the Methodist Church.

Willard S. Townsend -- Member, Executive Committee, CIO; International President, United Transport Service Employees of America.

Arthur G. Trudeau -- Brigadier General, G.S.C., War Department General Staff, Personnel Division G-1.

Fred G. Wale -- Director for Rural Education, Julius Rosenwald Fund.

Galen R. Weaver -- Specialist in Race Relations Programs within the Congregational and Christian Churches; Pastor, Church of the Crossroads, Honolulu, Hawaii.

George L-P Weaver -- Director, National CIO Committee to Abolish Discrimination.

Kendall Weisiger -- Formerly Education Director, Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company; now Treasurer, Oglethorpe University.

Eric Williams -- On leave from Howard University with the International Caribbean Commission; Author: The Negro in the Caribbean, Capitalism and Slavery.

Peyton R. Williams -- Rector, Christ Church, Episcopal, Nashville, Tennessee.

Paul D. Williams -- President, Southern Regional Council.

Emily Woodward -- Director, Division of Forums, University System of Georgia.

Thomas H. Wright -- Executive Director, Mayor's Commission on Human Relations, Chicago.

Louise Young -- Associate Secretary, United Council of Church Women.

Fisk

July 10, 1945

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Elsa Jones
Fisk University
Nashville, Tennessee

Dear Dr. and Mrs. Jones:

I greatly enjoyed the half-hour at your home last evening.

Enclosed is a marked note in the Southern Frontier about Giles Hubert's paper.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSMtw
Encl.

INSTITUTE OF RACE RELATIONS
AMERICAN MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION
FISK UNIVERSITY
NASHVILLE 8, TENNESSEE

CHARLES S. JOHNSON, DIRECTOR

HOPE DENNIS, SECRETARY

July 16, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Southern Regional Council
63 Auburn Avenue, N.E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

I appreciate very much your taking part in the Institute of Race Relations this year. I know you came at a kind of sacrifice.

You were a favorite with last year's members and became a favorite this year as well. Your experiences working with veterans provided us with a new insight into one of our most recent and, at the same time, most acute problems. As valuable as your talks were, I prize equally highly your personality which is the thing that so impressed the members and probably the thing that they will remember even longer than the facts.

Again, my thanks and best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

Charles S. Johnson

csj-j

Tenn

July 18, 1946

Mr. Charles Lawrence
Fisk University
Nashville, Tennessee

Dear Mr. Lawrence:

Thanks a lot for my ride to the hotel.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Fisk

July 19, 1945

Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Smith
Fisk University
Nashville, Tennessee

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Smith:

It was extremely kind of you to take me in for the two days at Fisk.

I greatly appreciate being a part of your home for that time.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Fisk

July 19, 1945

Mrs. H. F. Smith
Fisk University
Nashville, Tennessee

Dear Mrs. Smith:

I queried Miss Lucy about the key.

Lucy says - queer as it may seem - that she does not have a key, but was miraculously let in each time by the maid.

If despite this the key should come to light in Atlanta, I will of course get it promptly back to you.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Esk2

July 19, 1945

Dr. Charles Johnson
Fisk University
Nashville, Tennessee

Dear Dr. Johnson:

Here is a statement of my expenses in attending the Institute this week.

It was a most profitable set of discussions.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Paid
7/26/45

July 16		
	Ticket (plane)	
	-Atlanta-Nashville	$12.71
	Bus	.90
	Taxi	.65
	Hotel	2.50
	Meals	2.50
July 17		
	Meals	1.30
July 18		
	Meals	.40
	Ticket	
	-Nashville-Atlanta	7.34
	1st class step-up	
	-Nashville-Chattanooga	1.94
		$30.24

1271
20
65
250
250
130
40
734
104

3024

July 16.

Ticket (plane)
air - Nashville ? 17.16 ?
bus - 90
taxi - 65
hotel 2.50
meals 2.40

July 17.

meals. 1.30

July 18 meals. .40
ticket - Nashville - air. 7.34
1st class sleep. car.
Nash - Chatta. 1.94

Letter Dr. Chas Johnson

Dear Dr. Johnson.

Here is a statement of my expenses in attending the Institute this week.

It was a most profitable set of discussions.

Very truly,
EMM.

INSTITUTE OF RACE RELATIONS
AMERICAN MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION
FISK UNIVERSITY
NASHVILLE 8, TENNESSEE

CHARLES S. JOHNSON, DIRECTOR

HOPE DENNIS, SECRETARY

July 21, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Southern Regional Council
63 Auburn Avenue, N.E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

It has been good of you to consent so readily to have a part on the program of the Third Annual Institute of Race Relations which will be held July 1-20. It has also been a great convenience to us, in ordering the detailed program schedule, that you allowed temporarily a leeway within the second week while a somewhat complicated schedule took final form. We can now indicate the exact dates of your appearance, and I sincerely hope that the scheduling is found to be agreeable to you.

You are expected to participate in the panel discussions on labor and on veterans' problems which are scheduled for the 9th, 10th and 11th; and in addition we have you down for an evening lecture on the 11th.

We shall need titles for the lecture and the discussions for the program guide. Please send these promptly. Also, please indicate when you plan to arrive and if you would like to have us arrange return reservations.

We are looking forward to your coming. There has been an excellent membership registration.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Charles S. Johnson

csj-j

June 28, '46

Dear Dr. Johnson,

Many thanks indeed for shifting things around for my convenience.

I'll be in Nashville till the early evening of July 11th, and hereby engage to be in the panel at 2.30 July 11th, as well as for the lecture at 2.30 July 9th, and at such other panels July 9, 10th and 11th as you may arrange.

Titles:
2.30 lecture July 9th. Services to Negro Veterans.

Panel topics: Your choice of:
Unions and the Color Line
Opportunities in Veterans' Education
Position of Negro Veterans today
Administrationof Veteran's Benefits in the Southern States

Incidentally, for the benefit of whoever handles accommodations, I'm hoping for a bed somewhere near Fisk for the nights of July 9th and 10th. If none available, let me know, and I'll find space in a hotel.

Very truly,

George S. Mitchell

GSM/GSM!

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION

1201

(15)

A. N. WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT

SYMBOLS

DL = Day Letter
NL = Night Letter
LC = Deferred Cable
NLT = Cable Night Letter
Ship Radiogram

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1946 JUN 25 PM 1 32

Q NHA564 DL PD=NASHVILLE TENN 25 1141A

DR GEORGE MITCHELL=SOUTHERN REGIONAL COUNCIL ATLANTA
63 AUBURN AVE NORTH EAST ATLA=

HAVE OMITTED EVENING LECTURE JULY ELEVENTH AND LIFTED YOU ONE LECTURE ON VETERANS OR LABOR 2:30 JULY NINTH AND TWO LATER PANELS ON NINTH TENTH AND ONLY IF CONVENIENT 230 ON THE ELEVENTH=

CHARLES S JOHNSON

2:30 230

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

FISK UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
NASHVILLE, 8, TENNESSEE

CHARLES S. JOHNSON
DIRECTOR

July 23, 1945

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Southern Regional Council
63 Auburn Avenue, N. E - Room 432
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

I want to record in writing my thanks and appreciation for braving the rigors of travel at this particular time to make two trips to the Institute of Race Relations. Your evening presentation was exactly to the point and one of the best that I have heard in some time, and your contribution to the panel discussions gave the well rounded contour to our program for which we had planned.

Deposited 7-26-45

The enclosed check will cover a refund of the expenses which you incurred in connection with the two trips.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Charles S. Johnson

csj-p

M. D. COLLINS
STATE SUPERINTENDENT
OF SCHOOLS
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

M. D. MOBLEY
STATE DIRECTOR OF
VOCATIONAL EDUCATION
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

State Department of Education

Division of Vocational Education

Fort Valley, Georgia
January 12, 1946

Mr. Horace A. Bohannon
63 Auburn Avenue, Room 432
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Mr. Bohannon:

Unexpected developments necessitate my being in Fort Valley from Monday through Wednesday and, therefore, I will need to write you later regarding a definite date for our going to Cordele.

If you should attend the Macon meeting as suggested by Father Brown, and are in this community, be sure to call to see me.

Very truly yours,
Alva Tabor
Alva Tabor, Head
Itinerant Teacher Trainer
for Negro Schools

AT:mfc

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Bohannon

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GEORGE S. MITCHELL
DIRECTOR OF VETERANS SERVICES

Dear Dr. Mitchell;

On Jan 9, 1945, I left Atlanta for ~~Ft. Valley,~~ Ga. After securing accomodations etc. I set about learning the people in Fort Valley whose aid I could get in our present project. They were both willing & numerous.

One such person and the one who will be able to do the most for us I think is Mr. Alva Tabor of the State Dept. of Education. Mr. Tabor is intensely interested in the work and immediately set up a desk in his office for my use. He personally outlined the districts, counties, and local no-agricultural

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teachers to be contacted in each locality and invited me to work with him in setting up an exemplary county (and we chose Pike, where Cordele is located), to which we can point when asked about our work. He suggested that we begin on Tuesday, Jan 14 (but something came up, letter is attached).

Later in the day, Mr Tabor took me out to meet other prominent citizens of the community. At this time I met Father J. H. Brown of the Episcopal Church. Father Brown was equally as impressed

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and invited me to be present at a meeting of Macon's International Council on Tuesday Jan 14. At the time I could not accept definitely, however I plan to go for he promised I could make some very profitable acquaintances as far as people who are able to help me are concerned.

Jan 10, 1945 The next day I was intensely set about seeing the county agent O. S. O'neal who serves for both Peach and Houston counties. Of course this man is only a subordinate and (he made several references to his supervisor) can make only a few authoritative acts,

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yet he can be of great help in contacting the veterans. He promised every cooperation in our work. He insisted that I accompany him to a meeting of the Peach County Teachers. I was asked to tell what I was doing and proposed to do. I answered questions after the talk.

Later in the day I met Mr. W. H. Shell of the War Manpower Commission. Talking at length, of the possible tie-ups between his job and mine, we struck up a happy relationship which I think may prove valuable.

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DIRECTOR OF VETERANS SERVICES

Jun 11, 1945

The next day I was bent on meeting Pres. C. V. Troup of Fort Valley State College. Our appointment was at 2 o'clock. He seemed very much impressed with and interested in the work we are trying to do. He asked me to send him some literature on "On-the-job training and promised to help in any way he could.

Later in the day I met with the faculty sponsor of the local chapter of "G.I.", a veterans organization. Although all of the men here are already in a form of training, they have a definite purpose in my plan. They move out into the state to do a sort of practice-teaching job. Having a full knowledge of

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on-the job training, they can be ready to impart this knowledge to any one they meet.

On Saturday the 12th I wanted to set up the Ft. Valley Committe on Veterans' Affairs. However, the inability to get all members present at a set time forced me to rest with the selection of the said committee. I had to tell each member personally how I wanted it (the committee) to function. I have selected the following men to work with the veterans in Ft. Valley.

Mr. Alva Tabor
Pres. C. V. Troup
Father J. H. Brown
Mr. S. S. Oneal
Mr. H. S. Hunt Jr.
Mr. C. L. Ellison

I cannot consider the chapter Ft. Valley closed because I'll want to use it as a pulse for my undertakings further in the state.

I am not prepared to write just what I think of the local whites

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and their attitude toward the returning Negro veteran. I think after my next visit I should be able to say definitely. You see, I got two conflicting views; one is that the returning Negro veteran is dissatisfied with conditions and will inevitably be a trouble-maker, the other — that the white southerner is going to "pick on" the returning veteran to try to steer him "back into his place". Therefore I cannot say I've touched completely the entire feeling. Suffice it to say, that these people are thinking on the matter —

Sincerely
Horace R. Bohannon

Field agent
Bohannon

January 22, 1946

MEMORANDUM to: Mr. Horace A. Bohannon
FROM: George S. Mitchell

Dear Mr. Bohannon:

Many thanks for your report of January 17th.

You are on the right track and are doing a lot of good.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

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DIRECTOR OF VETERANS SERVICES

Jan 17, 1946

Dear Dr. Mitchell;

On Jan 14, I went to Macon Georgia for express purpose of attending the Interracial Council meeting there. Father J. H. Brown had hinted to me that I might make some good contacts there and I did.

After getting situated, I called on my old friend Frank J. Hutchings, an undertaker, who is also the leading Negro in civic and political life there. He promised and gave every co-operation. My first stop was the Booker T. Washington Community Center.

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It seems that the people of Macon who give advice to veterans have named this place to take care of colored veterans in the same respect. The director, a Mr. Sheffal, had never heard of on-the-job training. His actions on the whole impressed me as those of one who is under a great deal of pressure. So I moved on.

My next move was to sound out some of the local Negro businessmen. As usual, they too were ignorant of job training and its possibilities. Most of them promised to give it a try. One such person is Mr. Holsey of the Macon branch of Atlanta Life Insurance, another is L. Marshall of Marshall' Clothing Store,

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and editor of the local weekly newspaper.

On Tuesday evening, I attended the meeting of the Interracial Council. I was given ample chance to discuss on-the-job training and answered questions. They seem to have a fine council here and from every indication should get something done.

Wednesday (16) morning found me making the rounds to the various state, federal and locally supported veterans organizations. The first was the State Veterans Service Office headed by a fellow named Coke Connally. I talked to Mr. T. Forest Davis who is in charge in the absence of the former. He assured me that his office would act with fairness to any and all veterans who came in. Strangely enough, however,

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his office has absolutely nothing to do with the certification of firms for training. The authority is vested in the Macon Vocational School which will be discussed later. He gave me a list of schools (and of the trades taught, both very limited) in the city and I picked one at random and visited it. I don't know I expected but I found: an old dilapidated building with virtually no doors or windows a very poor heating system and most despairing of all poor teachers and worse subject matter. However, here veterans are taught along with 7th 8th and 9th grade pupils. Conditions are really deplorable at Ward Street School.

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We then visited the office of Mr W. R. Smith of the Macon News, a fine man in every sense. He told me that his paper stood behind anything good for the veterans and I believe he is sincere. Every one in Macon speaks well of him and of his associate Harry Strotzier of the "Primus King - White Primary Case." We visited Mr. Strotzier who is busy preparing a brief for the case. He took time out to assure us of his cooperation.

Upon looking in at the local office the situation changed. For the first time since I've been working at this job I met someone who already knew of job training (and had been using it to the disadvantage of nearly every Negro veteran who had applied).

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I didn't get much from these people but rough treatment, but I learned from other sources that the procedure these people use is this: A veteran comes in to see about a job usually, for he knows nothing of job training. The agency suggests he try this on-the-job training and fill out his forms for him. They then send him off to one of a number of firms who give the veteran the dirtiest, the most difficult work to do and scheme to keep him at that particular work. The veteran rebells, the V.A. is advised by the local agency to strip the boy of his benefits. I'll have more on this in my next report of Mason. I plan

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to go back there on or about the 5th Feb. at which time I'll make a more completely detailed report of both the local agency and of the Ward St School

Sincerely
Horace A. Bohannon

RECEIVED
JAN 29 1946
Southern Regional Council

450 John St. N.W. #509
atlanta, Ga
Jan. 28, 1946

Dear madam:

I am an honorable discharged negro Sailor. I am very anxious to take advantage of the vocational training offered me under the G. I bill of rights. I want to learn radio and electrical appliances repairing. There is no facilities in atlanta that I can receive this training. But in another state I can become a finished repairman within three or four months. I think this training will give me future earning security and will also allow me to give my sons work to further this quest of an education. under the G. I bill of rights I will receive the education paid for by the Government and also

be allowed ninty dollors per month subsistence, but this would not be enough if I will go to another city for this training. my record is a good one in and out of the service. Can you tell me of any agency or individual that can help me relive the training that is so near and yet so far away? I will be glad to furnish any number of references as to my honesty and good record.

Yours Truly

John A. Davis

January 29, 1947

Mr. Horace A. Bohannon
305 Alaska Ave., N.E.
Atlanta 5, Georgia

Dear Mr. Bohannon:

As a matter of routine, please be kind enough to mail back to me the letter of introduction which I gave you when you started work in pay status with the Council and also any unused visiting cards you may have on hand.

Sincerely,

GSM/lg

George S. Mitchell

TRAVEL REPORT - BOHANNON

Jan. 29, 1946 At a meeting of the Urban League's Veterans Council at Herndon Homes in Atlanta, I talked with Mr. Davis. He is very intelligent and seems to know hat he wants. He told me he had been to a number of firms in Atlanta to try to secure his employment in his particular field (radio and electric appliance repair) to no avail. He said that he planned to go north to try to find something there. He had in mind New York, I believe.

I asked him to come in to see me, that together we might try to crack one of the white firms here such as GE or Philco or Stewart Warner. I have heard nothing more from him, and Thompson of the Urban League advises me that Davis may have left the city.

February 1, 1946

Mr. Horace A. Bohannon
477 Larkin Street, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Mr. Bohannon:

I have a hankering for tidiness about money matters. In order to get the travel advances off the books at a reasonably early date, I propose to ask Miss Clay to hold back from each of the next two forth-coming travel checks one-half of any presently outstanding travel expense.

That's not necessarily an absolute rule, and if it would pinch you, say so.

Of course, you may have additional advances for long trips or if you get in some sort of hole.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services

GSM:jm

FIELD AGENT REPORT * Horace A. Bohannon

Monday, January 21, 1946 - Visited with the Hon. R. L. Cousins, Department of Negro Education, State of Georgia. He advised me that on-the-job training in many respects is in his opinion the best thing for the Negro veteran. He believes, however, that in many cases the veterans are being exploited. His plan of action to remedy this situation is this: direct supervision from the State Office of Veterans Education. However, this cannot be done until more money is appropriated for the State Veterans Education Council.

I visited with Captain F. A. Sams of the State Veterans Education Council. He assured me that his office would do anything it can to help sponsor on-the-job training in the state for Negroes. This office has more work than it can really do. The staff which was at one time adequate is now too small to fully inspect, supervise, and control the function for which it was set up.

Wednesday, January 23, 1946 - Visited with Mr. Robert R. Reed of Atlanta Business and Trades Association. He immediately furnished me with a list of business estabilshments, all Negro, in the Atlanta area. This visit proved to be very valuable, for with the use of the list I was able to place Arthur McFarland at Eley's concern of brick manufacturing and bricklaying. This is another of the instances where I have be able to actuall place a man.

Wednesday evening I was off to Augusta to find out what I could about the Conference of State Veterans Counselors. With the help of Dean W. L. Graham and President E. C. Peters of Paine College, I was able to meet Mr. R. C. Conally of the State Veterans Office. He assured me that I should feel welcome at any of meetings that were to be held. However, he discouraged my attending the one on Thursday evening which was to be held at the Richmond Hotel. He said that the meeting that would interest me would be held Friday afternoon at the Veterans Hospital. When we arrived Friday, we found that the business had been transacted the night before (at the meeting I was advised not to attend).

Friday evening I talked to the local chapter of veterans of the American Legion about on-the-job training and was very well received, and I think I put the idea across.

On Saturday morning I returned to Atlanta and found Mr. Lynch of Newnan waiting on my doorstep. At the time he was still interested in welding. However, when I talked to him about going into insurance instead, his entire future seemed to brighten. Needless to say, he is now working in an insurance firm in Newnan, Georgia.

In conclusion I would say that nothing was availed by the trip to Augusta. I learned very little that can help me in this work. However, I was not discouraged. Better luck next time.

Capt. F. A. Sams -

"Any Negro firms or estabilshments that have any interests in helping with the on-the-job training program in Georgia, have only to request an inspection from Educational Division of the States Veterans Service Office and become certified.

This office has really more work than it can ever hope to do. The staff which was at one time adequate is now to small to fully inspect supervise and control the functions of on-the-job training in

R. L. Cousins- State Veterans Ed Council

"On-the-job training cannot proceed in Georgia until a greater appropriation has been made for this purpose. There is before the Assembly a bill to give $307,000 for on-the-job training in Georgia. The fate of veterans in the state rests with the politicos."

In many cases the veterans are being exploited due to insufficient supervision.

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ROOM 432, 63 AUBURN AVENUE, N. E. ATLANTA 3, GEORGIA

Field agent Bohannon

To Dr. Mitchell

A Council to attain, through research and action, the ideals and practices of equal opportunity for all peoples in the South.

from Bohannon - Georgia - Feb. 14, 1946

During the week of Feb. 4, I visited the towns of Millen, Waynesboro, and Augusta, Georgia, to further spread the news of job training. The first person I contacted in Millen was John E. Briggs, the local vocational-agricultural teacher and certainly one of the town's leading citizens.

It was a very cold morning and since it was such an early hour that I arrived, I'm sure it was only the name of my old schoolmate, Rev. W. S. Mercer, that brought the warm reception at Mr. Briggs. We had breakfast, then talked over the possibility of a job training (farm training) project in this community. Mr. Briggs told me that the people in his section were trying to do what they could for the veteran, but this did not amount to a hill of beans. The main occupation in this area is farming and many fellows returning from the service will want to work on their own or someone else's farm. We planned a meeting the following week with all the Vocational-Agricultural teachers in the two counties and one the following week with as many veterans as could be "dug up".

One of the chief fears I found was this; the people are afraid the veterans are not going to remain in Georgia and certainly not on a farm in Georgia unless they can make better than a "hand to mouth living". The practice has been for a vet to come home, say hello to all kin , far and nigh, pick up his bags and away to New York, California, or somewhere. However, they believed that farm training was the answer to all their problems.

In Waynesboro about the same procedure was followed as to setting up farm training through two more teachers (Vo-Ag). There is in Waynesboro one small garage where a man might learn auto mechanics. I'm trying to get it certified. My man in Waynesboro is Rev. W. S. Mercer, who hadn't much to say for any of the whites there. I think, however, his being a "yankee" has a lot to do with that. He was loud in his praise for the work the Vo-Ag teachers and county agents are doing.

In Augusta, I tried to find a man named Friez of TVA. Mr. Friez (w) is a field agent who comes into Jenkins County every Tuesday. It seems that he is a decent sort of fellow for he had recommended "Rehabilitation Readjustment" for our boys. He would admit no knowledge of Farm Training.

I think we can get his cooperation. Also in Augusta, I ran across Bill Dukes of the Pilgrim Health and Life Insurance Company. This is one of the places I "spurred on" to getting certified when in Augusta before. They are now ready and are more or less awaiting the veterans. Dukes gave me some tips on getting onto large plantations, talking with crews, plantation managers, owners, etc. After a few hours in Augusta, I came (via Millen and Waynesboro) back to Atlanta.

Subsequently through mail and telephone we arranged a farm training program in Jenkins County that looks like this.

	No. Trainees (now)	No. Teachers	Facilities	Prospects for New trainees
Jenkins (Co)	18	3	Fair	Good
Burke (Co)	5 (?)	2	Poor	Good

This is the first of my efforts to set up in each of the four districts at least one farmer training program.

Ft. Valley, Ga
Feb 19, 1946
Bohannon

Dear Mrs. Warwick,

Having finally contacted Mr. Tabor, I find that the Farmer Training Program is being held up due to the ups in Washington. Please call Mr. Cousins in the Dept of Negro Education and find out if anything new has happened.

Mr. Tabor tells me also that the digest of the G I Bill (which you have in the file) will amply suit his needs. Please send him three copies.

I'm writing this to you because I'm sure Dr. Mitchell

is out of town. I believe Savannah is too big to be included in any week of events so I may take about four days there (March 1-5).

Regards to the SRC family. Sam

Sincerely yours
Horace S. Johnson

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Field Agent

Southern Regional Council, Inc.

ROOM 432, 63 AUBURN AVENUE, N. E. ATLANTA 3, GEORGIA

Field Report - BOHANNON Feb. 22, 1946

A Council to attain, through research and action, the ideals and practices of equal opportunity for all peoples in the South.

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

This is to report a series of visits to Fort Valley, Savannah, Millen, and Ft. Valley.

As you know, my plan called for a trip to Augusta but a telephone call from Mr. Briggs gave me the idea that a good deal could be done with the Farm Training program so I went after it.

My first stop was Mr. Tabor's office in Ft. Valley. What we had been waiting for had come through. In a letter from Mr. Walters of State Department of Vocational Education, I learned of the new provisions of the (approved) program which affect mainly the number of clock hours in the classroom. This has been cut from 12 hours a week to 8 hours a month.

This will make the program much easier for the individual teacher and veteran since more time can be spent on farms. Mr. Tabor and I talked over the prospective program in Jenkins County, and I proposed one in or around Green County, in the northeastern part of the state. I am going there next week. Mr. Tabor also asked that I return to Ft. Valley on Thursday, Feb. 21, to attend a meeting of the New Farmers of America. I promised I would and took leave for Savannah.

In Savannah, the first thing I did was to call on the local State Veterans Service Officer. I was ushered in in the usual manner to see a Mr. Green. Mr. Green told me of a very sad state of affairs in Savannah as far as job training is concerned . He said that few or no white shops admitted Negro workers. (He blamed this on the Unions). He also said that in cases where Negroes were in white shops, they were only being exploited. He cited an example of a veteran in a furniture shop, supposedly taking upholstering. However, a visit to the shop proved that the boy was unloading and uncrating furniture. He said that Negro businesses were not trying to help. He said that most of them were trying to see what they could get out of the program.

On the subject of vocational training he brightened "a thousand watts". He seemed very proud to relate that the school at Ga. State College is giving Negro veterans training in shoe repair, auto mechanics, brick-masonry, and sheet metal work, while the vocational school in Savannah

(white) gave diesel engineering, electrical appliance repair, electric motor re-winding, radio repair, etc. He recommended that I call on President Hubert at the college to find out just what he (Mr. Green) was trying to do for the Negroes in Savannah. He also asked me to see a Major Hopkins, who is just out of the service. He said the major had an unusual interest in job training. I thinked him for the information and asked if he had any plan afoot to correct the situation. He knew of none and stated that "his hands were tied". He asked me to come in any time I was in Savannah and expressed his willingness to help to get more job training for Negroes.

The next day I spent at Ga. State College. I went first to call on President Hubert who was in such high esteem of the Veterans Service Officer. I admit I had a pre-concieved opinion of the man, but I confess I was floored at his "Uncle Tommishness". He seemed serenely happy that the state had picked his institution for such a program. He thought the courses - shoerepair, auto mechanics, brick laying, and sheet metal - were just what the veteran wanted and frowned at the thought that he should ask any additional ones like radio repair, electrical appliances, woodworking or any modern skill.

Feeling "let-down" as I was, I asked to see the shops. I was taken at once to the auto shop. It is a new, corrugated tin structure with a grass floor. The instructor informed me that equipment was on order and showed me what he had. It is very good and seems to be modern, but I daresay it is enough for ten men, not the fifty that they have enrolled. The other shops ran progressively downward in my estimation both in equipment and in teacher personnel. I concluded that some pressure should be put on the state to make this school adequate since it is the only one of its kind in the state.

The next day I began laying the groundwork for a Citizens Committee, which will push for better opportunities for job training for Negroes in Savannah. I was unable to contact Major Hopkins since he was out of the city, but I did call on Mr. Frank Callen, head of the Savannah branch of the Boys' Club of America. Mr. Callen is by far the most progressive Negro in Savannah. He told me many things about the industrial and economic conditions in the city. He said he had as members of his board of directors many leading white businessmen and merchants. He seemed to be the man I was looking for. He was definitely in favor of more on-the-job training and suggested I ask Major Hopkins to be a member of the committee. We arranged a meeting of the Citizens Committee next week.

Back at Fort Valley, where there was a meeting of the New Farmers of America honoring 26 farmers who had paid off loans from the government through FSA (these loans made on a 20 year plan were paid in from 3 to 7 years), I met a lot of people who knew you and of your work with the FSA. Mr. Tabor gave a talk on the Farm Training Program and its advantages to the South and to the Negro veteran. He was well received and the people.

asked a number of questions concerning the program, some of which he called on me to answer.

There is almost a month's work to be done in Savannah. I think, since I can't spend too much time in any community, our hope lies with the Citizens Committee and in getting Negro field workers on the State Veterans Services payroll.

Sincerely,

Horace A. Bohannon

HAB:w

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Field Reports
Bohannon

Southern Regional Council, Inc.

ROOM 432, 63 AUBURN AVENUE, N. E. ATLANTA 3, GEORGIA

Field Report - BOHANNON

A Council to attain, through research and action, the ideals and practices of equal opportunity for all peoples in the South.

March 11, 1946

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

The past week found me going to Athens, Augusta, and Albany. The trip to Athens and the one to Albany were in the interest of the Farm Training Program. In each case there were called together the Vo-Ag teachers of each district in a meeting to discuss the program, its possibilities and just what the Vo-Ag teacher is expected to do. Mr. Tabor thinks that a maximum of four programs will be set up for the present. He plans to make each of these as nearly ideal as possible. The places will be chosen as to (1) number of landowners (veteran) in county, (2) availability of school, teacher and equipment.

In Augusta I answered the call of Dean W. L. Graham of Paine College who had written a letter to you. Mr. Graham took me to the local Veterans Service Office where we talked to the director about the possibilities of getting more Negroes in on-the-job training in the building trades. The director (a Mr. Connally) expressed deep concern but said he didn't know just what he could do about it. I explained how the Bricklayers Union in Atlanta is taking on 100 men and he advised me to try that angle.

Mr. Graham and I went to a construction firm (Claussen) that does a great deal of work and asked of the possibilities of Negro job trainees. We were told that the company only hired the men that were sent by the Unions and that we should check with them. A check on the Unions gave us this: (a) that the Unions had as many men as they could give employment, (b) that for veterans a token of one carpenter, electrician, bricklayer, plasterer in each skill might be trained, (c) that Negroes in the skills of bricklayer, cement finisher, plasterer, etc., make up half the number of men in the trade, but in the other skills there are almost none. Mr. Graham and other Augustans promised to push the Unions for more Negroes in all the skills.

That evening I spoke to a Negro Veteran Organization. I was well received and questions were asked afterwards. It was here I learned of the Ga. Railroad case (given in another report). I sincerely hope we will be able to see some results in this great injustice.

In Augusta I ran into Mr. Cousins of the State Department of Negro Education, who told me that Mr. Yingling of the Veterans Educational Council

had visited the Ga. State College. It seems that the college did not come up to standard (see report of Feb. 22), so the whole program was thrown out. I think the state officials feared an inspection by the V.A. No one knows the fate of vocational (institutional) training for Negroes in Georgia, but this is certain: Every Negro veteran who applies for on-the-job training in the state will not be referred to the "three-man shoe shop" in Savannah. I'm not speaking against any institution, but I say again - if only one vocational school is to be supported by the state, it should be one we can all be proud of.

Sincerely,

Horace A. Bohannon

HAB:w

Interview with Major Adler, March 11, 1946

One man has been afraid to push the case, because his father is employed by the railroad. The formal case before them is that of Roosevelt Wheeler. They have no knowledge that other persons were involved. When GSM suggested that all were depending on one case, he said "Of course".

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ROOM 432, 63 AUBURN AVENUE, N. E. ATLANTA 3, GEORGIA

Bohannon

BOHANNON - MARCH 18, 1946

A Council to attain, through research and action, the ideals and practices of equal opportunity for all peoples in the South.

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

This week I laid the groundwork for my series of visits to the Southern end of the state. As you know, this is the real plantation area and it is here that a large number of Negroes live, and it follows that here we will be able to do most good, given the chance.

My first stop down this was was Brunswick. It was a holiday since it was election day, when I arrived. Everybody seemed concerned about this particular election and rightly so. It was history. Since it was a holiday, I confined my work to visits to local teachers, ministers, doctors, etc. They all agreed that something should be done for the returned serviceman, but as usual, none had any notion of job training. As I stopped in the Negro barbershops, eateries, drug stores, etc., I learned that Negro veterans fall into one of three classes in Brunswick: (a) migrate to other sections, (b) reenlist in the services, (c) draw unemployment compensation. The fellows told me that almost no effort was being put for Negro veterans, that they were discouraged about job training and couldn't see any future in the vocational training offered. They assured me that there was a vocational school for whites, but the situation was pretty dark for Negro veterans.

The next day, which was a very beautiful one, I started on a tour of the Veterans Offices. My first stop was the office of the contact representative of the Veterans Administration. I was informed that this office had to do with claims, pensions, and the certification of men. I was told that I should see a Mr. M. E. Caulley at the Brunswick Vocational School about job training. I found Mr. Caulley explaining to a veteran the advantages of job training. Finally, he got around to talking to me. He told me that he liked to think of himself as a Christian. He said it really hurt him to see a Negro veteran enter his office because he had so little to offer them. He said he had wanted to establish a vocational school with bricklaying, carpentry, and plastering as the courses offered. He disfavored offering some of modern skills because he said "there is no need training a man for a job he can't do around here". I said if the man were trained he could get employment. He introduced me to the head of the Brunswick Vocational School and told him that he had asked my help in establishing his school. This man, a Mr. Hardy, became intensely interested in my credentials. He took the letter over to a Mr. Hood Glynn, County Sup't of Schools. It seemed that he was afraid he might be making the wrong kind of tie-up. When he returned, he asked me to go over to the Risley High School to talk up the idea there with the officials and with the vocational teachers.

I found at the high school a Professor Brown and Mr. Beary. Brown is a first rate carpenter with a Wiley College background and head of the Vocational Dep't. Beary is equally as good a brickmason with Florida A and M training. Both favored the idea; both agreed to accept only the best, since this was the only effort in the city for Negro veterans. I told them that I could not spend any ten-day period with them but could arrange about three or four days to help them get started.

I then moved on up to Savannah where I found that a lot of veterans have applied for job training since my last visit. My "committee" must have been active. Mr. Callen informed that they expect great strides in the near future. A visit to the Georgia State College revealed many veterans idle due to "some change in the program". I displayed ignorance of the whole affair. Also at Georgia State at that time were many teachers from high schools all over Ga. A few of these were Vo-Ag teachers. (The occasion was a basketball tournament). Of course, I talked farm training to those I could get my hands on. Those who promised to work on it were from Union Point High School, Union Point, Ga., Liberty County Training School and from Ballard Normal in Macon.

I moved on up to Augusta to try to find something new on the Bassett case, but Bassett was out of town and his wife could offer nothing new. The idea of the vocational school in Augusta is coming along and more Negro veterans are applying for on-the-job training. I think we can expect great things from Augusta.

Field Agent

March 21, 1946

MEMORANDUM TO: Mr. Horace A. Bohannon
FROM: George S. Mitchell

In re: Richard L. Dawson

My good friend, Mrs. Mary Raoul Millis of 377 Tenth Street, NE - Ve. 1294 - called on the morning of March 20th.

Her family has long had help from Mrs. Annie Taylor, a domestic. Mrs. Taylor's neice, Martha, is married to a veteran, Richard L. Dawson. Mrs. Taylor's telephone number - and therefore Mr. Dawson's telephone number - is Ra. 4725.

Mrs. Millis is hopeful that something can be done to enable Mr. Dawson to get into house painting. She has discussed the matter with her own (Negro) house painter who has long served her. This painter's name is E. E. Burdetter, address unknown, but available nights at De. 8122. Burdette is supposedto have said that he could not pay a learner enough wages, but I have been informed that Burdette is currently paying considerably more than forty cents an hour to the men who assist him. Burdette does not know any details of job training. Burdette advised Dawson to go to work in an automobile painting shop where he would learn color mixing, which in Burdette's opinion is the next thing Dawson needs to know.

The problem is to get Dawson fixed up for becoming a painter house or otherwise. The Burdette possibility is a possibility only.

Dawson is to come to see us this morning or tomorrow morning.

Age 31, 11th grade education, married and one child, now working at a rubber plant organized in the AFL Federal Labor Union, gets

$127.00 a month. Starts work at 3:30 pm and cannot get in touch with people in the evening. His free time is around 11:00 am, leaves home at 2:00 pm.

He is to go and see Jim Moore, Secretary of the Painters District Council, 91 Trinity Ave., SW, Jackson 5515, because apprenticeship training service in the Department of Labor in Atlanta informed me that the painters have an apprenticeship training program in operation for colored. Told Dawson that he should explore more and report to this office Monday.

Observe that Dawson is 31. My understanding is that apprenticeship training generally not available to persons over 25 because of union rules. Union rules normally should be waived for veterans, but ain't usually.

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BOHANNON

A Council to attain, through research and action, the ideals and practices of equal opportunity for all peoples in the South.

Report of Negro Veterans Conference at Chicago April 6,7,1946

In my position as a dual representative to this conference, I would easily say that as a "conference of all races with particular attention to problems of Negroes", it was a success. Of course, there were the usual problems of organization with certain groups within the conference. These groups represented certain interests. They were mainly:

1. Southern Negro Delegates
2. Mid-western "
3. Northeastern "
4. Church "
5. Unions, especially the CIO
6. Specialists in V.A., USES, and other governmental agencies

Generally the panel discussions, which ran the gamut from labor and employment, to civil liberties and the right to participate in government, agreed that the greatest volume of work has to be done in the South. Cases were cited where Negroes, however qualified, have been turned down by the offices of V.A. and USES.

In the panel on labor and employment (This was the one most attended and consequently the one where the most heated discussions came about) where I heard and discussed problems of on-the-job training for veterans, everybody wanted to know the character, the general outlook of the people of position who handle job training in this area. They had heard reports of exploitation and denials. They had all kinds of questions about the salaries of veterans, the limitations concerning Negro veterans. They took a hopeful attitude at the mention of the fact that the Veterans Administration will supervise and inspect job training. A number of men felt that this should be done throughout the country. Throughout the discussion, there arose the idea that the salvation of the Negro worker lay in organized labor. Of course, there were some members who doubted the policies of some unions but even so they agreed to organized labor.

In general the conference, its policies, and its selection of officers, were dominated by the delegates from Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New York, with the largest group from the South coming from Birmingham.

Throughout the conference I was able to talk to various people from other southern states about the vast possibilities. Most of them were informed about job training, but were shying away from it for reasons of (a) exploitation by employers or (b) inability to get Negroes placed on any "decent" training in their communities. They were all impressed by my work and said that the Council was to be commended for undertaking such a task. Quite a few were

members, others promised membership.

The "keynote" address was made to the Group by Dr. Charlotte Hawkins Brown of the Palmer Institute, N. C. Dr. Brown commended the organization for its interracial character and asked that we as veterans fight for a better America for all citizens and by that we will have made it better for Negroes as well.

In the panel on Civil Liberties, a CIO member from Detroit read a report on the plan of the CIO to organize the South with past achievements of the CIO as a background. There were many resolutions forthcoming from this panel.

After the election of officers and the mass meeting on Sunday evening, the conference was declared closed.

Field Agents

April 8, 1946

MEMORANDUM TO: All Field Agents
FROM: George S. Mitchell

Here is an interesting document from Alabama in which I see Mr. Twitty's handiwork.

It has some good ideas.

Sent copy of Wetumka, Ala, Banquet Program for ex-servicemen.

Field agent

April 10, 1946

MEMORANDUM TO: Mr. Horace A. Bohannon
FROM: George S. Mitchel

You had a phone call this morning that I took from Mr. Julian Wilson, 352 Plains Avenue, NW, Ma. 0657.

He says he is about to go on as a carpenter apprentice on on-the-job training. Surely he means apprentice training. The deal has been worked out by the business manager of the Negro local of the carpenters union, whose name is John Jennings.

Fifteen Negroes are to start this training as soon as the Saturday classes are worked out. Wilson's problem is about wages. He had heard that he could get only $25.00 a month from the Veterans Administration.

He says the union rate for carpenters is $1.37 an hour, forty hours a week. That is $54.80 a week. He is to be taken on at $.90 an hour, forty hours a week, or $36.00 a month. The difference is $18.80 a week, or $75.20 a month. He is single, and therefore would draw from the Veterans Administration $65.00 a month. Spread on a weekly basis, his Veterans Administration supplement would be $16.30 a week. This plus $36.00 a week from the boss yields $52.30 per week.

I thought you would like to know.

Field Agents

April 12, 1948

MEMORANDUM TO: Field Agents
FROM: George S. Mitchell

I have seen friends who feel rather hopeful about the expansion of the American Veterans Committee in the South.

As you know, this is one of the few veterans organizations which has taken a clear stand against racial discrimination.

If, in your travels, you come across people who might be interested in taking a leading part in local chapters of AVC, I wish you would let me know their names and contacts.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Field Agents

April 12, 1946

MEMORANDUM TO: Field Agents
FROM: George S. Mitchell

Here is material I picked up at the meeting on April 5th in New York, organized by the American Council on Race Relations for further plans for the Negro veteran.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Field Agents

April 16, 1946

MEMORANDUM TO: All Field Agents
FROM: George S. Mitchell

I am sending you a supply of the April issue of PULSE MAGAZINE.

It has in it an article we did on job training with pictures. Make any use of it that you think fit. It occurs to me that it would do good in USOs and waiting rooms of local veterans servicing agencies, and other places where veterans or service men gather.

It is for free distribution. We bought 500 copies and paid for them.

Field Agent

April 19, 1946

MEMORANDUM TO: All Field Agents
FROM: George S. Mitchell

In Washington the other day I interviewed officials in charge of on-the-farm training for the Veterans Administration.

The first two contracts signed were with Arkansas and Georgia. Beginning in the last two weeks of March, the whole series of new contracts have been signed. These new contracts contain provisions substantially different from those signed for Arkansas and Georgia. Presumably, these first two contracts will die as of June 30, 1946, and be replaced by the new kind of contract.

The Southern states which have now signed contracts are: Arkansas, Georgia, Mississippi, Louisiana, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee, Maryland, Missouri, Kentucky. Florida has been sent one and is expected to sign in a few days. A total of somewhat over thirty states have now signed.

The new contracts make provision of a sort for croppers and farm laborers to get the benefit. The device is to require enrollment for these persons in "an institution", which may be nothing more than the local high school. In connection with the enrollment, this must take not less than two hundred hours a year of classroom instruction, suitably spaced, and not less than fifty hours a year of instruction on the farm of what is called "employer-trainer". Additionally, theymust be receiving steady practical instruction from the employer-trainer, so as to equip the veteran with a specialized skill, as dairyman or poultryman or truck farmer. It will be possible for a veteran to go on this deal as trainee for general farm management, in which case he would be planning to be a farm manager, the sixty-five or the ninety dollars payable on this deal.

The other deal is that set out in the Georgia contract which I described in my earlier letter, where the boy has full managerial responsibility on a farm which he owns or holds under a written lease and where the farm is a full-time farm of acceptable fertility.

It about comes down to this: Under these new contracts, a veteran who has no farm but who pushes hard and/or meets with sympathetic assistance from the

County Vo-Ag officials can get the benefit.

I was told that we need not worry about the underscored clause in Circular 61 on a definite job for the trainee. If he owns or rents a farm, clearly he has a definite job. If he is enrolled in an institution and working under an employer-trainer, the fact of his enrollment in an institution pulls off the effect of the underscored clause in Circular 61.

Another possibility looms, but is not yet worked out. A sharecropper who found time to get to an institution - say, just the local Vo-Ag classes - for less than full-time institutional attendance could get the partial benefit. Full benefit is for 25 clock hours attendance a week. 12 clock hours yields half-benefit; 18 hours yields a three-fourths benefit; 6 hours yields one-fourth. These at any rate are the institutional standards recommended to the states by the Veterans Administration. You can see that if a cropper or laborer got off from work one day a week, he might draw one-fourth benefit. He could draw one-fourth benefit, theoretically, for four times the length of training period for which eligible. But of course your country Vo-Ag school runsout of classes long before that.

The states which have signed the contract have signed at figures for the tuition money varying between fifteen and thirty dollars per month per veteran. They average around twenty dollars. The Veterans Administration explains the difference in terms of salary differential and living costs between one area and another.

The phrase being used in the new contracts for the ownership or rental deal is as follows: "Complete control of the operation through ownership, lease, management agreement, or other tenure arrangement which fully protects his welfare." Instruction in connection with this is a minimum of two hundred hours a year institutional, plus one hundred hours farm instruction, 50% of which must be on the farm the boy is working on, farm plan required.

Not all of the new contracts contain provisions enabling the training of specialized farm skills under employer-trainers. If your state has not got it, somebody could put up a kick and get it.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Bohannon —— April 19, 1946

Dear Dr. Mitchell;

On April 10, I went to Valdosta, to see what is being done for the veteran in that area. My first stop was, of course the local veteran service Offices. I introduced myself and was received, but reluctantly, by the director who directed me to the local colored Veteran organization.

As in other places, job training is lagging in general and present plans for Negro veterans seem to be centered around some vocational training rather than any job training.

I talked with a number of veterans around town and I was not favorably impressed by the conversations. They all seemed too pessimistic about any part of the future, about their G.I. benefits etc.

On to Albany and the Georgia Teachers and Educational Association. I found the teachers in very high spirits, about 2000 attending. They had drawn up very definite resolutions concerning the State of Georgia and it's responsibilities to Negro education. Dr. Rayford W. Logan of Howard University with whom I had the pleasure of traveling from Atlanta to Albany, advised the teachers to include in their resolutions one concerning the veteran. He said, in his address, that too many of our veterans are not receiving the full benefits of the G.I Bill. He said, "too many employers and veteran advisers are of the opinion that Negro veterans should be given training for jobs and only those jobs, which they now hold in communities where they live." This works a particular hardship for the veteran who wants to go into a "modern" skill.

I had a chance to talk to quite a few of the Vocational teachers in addition to the "button holing" I had planned

due to the absence of Mr. W. H. Shell of the Labor Dept. They were very much enthused with the possibilities of Farm Training in their communities. Due to my "buttonholing", I was able to discover a man named T. R. Mayo of Forsyth, Ga who said he the veterans in Forsyth and that he had the equipment but had no Farm Program. I immediately made steps to get him in touch with Mr Tabor who will be able to iron out his difficulties.

Upon Contacting Mr Tabor at Fort Valley, I learned that four new "Farm" Programs are getting under way at:

Sylvester Ga
Teacher A. G. Sadler

Metter, Ga.
W. E. Whatley

Vienna, Ga
Teacher McKinley Wilson

Brooklyn, Ga
G. T. Merritt

Mr. Tabor also said that Cordele, Ga is crying for a program but his teachers are usually already commited upon returning

from the service and so far he has not been able to furnish one to Cordele. He is having a conference again at Greensboro for the purpose of setting up a program in Green County on Saturday April 20, I expect to be there.

The next day I was off to Forsyth to look at the afore mentioned school and its veterans. The biggest question in the minds of the teachers there was the integrity of the local Veteran Supervisor of Monroe. This man a Mr. Heard (white) has a vocational school for whites on his own property and controls the school for Negro Veterans at the Hubbard Training School. These men, although I was unable to obtain a figure, questioned the justness of the hours they taught (10-12) and their pay scale.

On over to Griffin and a meeting of the N.F.A.* It was a sort of Graduation

* New Farmers of America

exercise with the young boy farmers applying for higher degrees of farming. I served as a judge for the quiz program and other contests. I was able to speak to the audience and made a special appeal to the veterans present.

Field Agents

April 22, 1946

MEMORANDUM TO: All Field Agents
FROM: George E. Mitchell

The National Association of the Retail Merchants Associations has a full-time office working on job training. The head of it is a certain retired Commander Ralph A. Sentman. I visited his office in Washington the other day. Found him out, but told his office what I was after and asked their cooperation. Here is a copy of their two principal bulletins.

There are a good many jobs listed that Negro veterans could readily get. I feel sure that Commander Sentman's office would be interested in hearing of opportunities to help get veterans of any group placed in retail establishments.

Sincerely,

Field agents

April 22, 1946

MEMORANDUM TO: All Field Agents
FROM: George S. Mitchell

Here are copies of two interesting news items from the Washington Daily News of Monday April 15th, 1946.

Additionally, I send you a copy of one of the Commanders Information Bulletins for April 1, 1946.

Sincerely,

GI TRAINEES NOT CHEAP LABOR, STATES WARNED

State governors were warned today that integrity of the GI on-the-job training program "will be discredited if it is used as a cheap labor scheme or if veterans are trained for non-existent jobs."

The Federal Government is expected to spend $10 to $14 billion on the program. At its peak, the Government's contribution will average $2 billion annually.

Major Gen. G. B. Erskine, director of retraining and re-employment, sent each governor copies of recommended minimum criteria and standards for accrediting job training projects.

NEITHER DOLE NOR SUBSIDY

"The subsistence allowance is not a dole to the veteran nor is it intended as a subsidy for the employer," he warned. "Subsistences have been provided to assure economic security to veterans who want to learn a job which will increase their earning capacity and opportunity for employment and advancement. It is hoped the states will see fit to adopt these criteria as a minimum basis for approval."

Minimum standards will require employers to file written application with state departments of education specifying:

Title and description of the job for which the veteran is to be trained and length of the training period in hours.

A schedule, listing operation of types of work to be learned and showing for each the tasks to be performed and the approximate length of time to be spent at each task.

Wages to be paid at the beginning of the training program, at each successive step in the program and at completion of training.

Wages paid employes already trained.

REQUIREMENTS LISTED

State Departments of Education would be required to approve only those programs which can show certain requirements, including:

The training program is adequate to qualify the veteran for appointment to the job for which the veteran is being trained.

There is reasonable certainty the job for which the veteran is being trained will be available to him at the end of the training period.

That wages paid veterans for each successive period of training are not less than those customarily paid to a learner in the same job who is not a veteran.

That the job customarily requires a period of training but no longer than that customarily required to provide trainees with the required skills.

Appropriate credit is given the veteran for previous job experience, whether in military or civilian service, and his beginning wage adjusted to the level to which such credits advance him, and his training period shortened accordingly.

The Washington Daily News
Monday, April 15, 1946

Field Agent

April 24, 1946

MEMORANDUM TO: All Field Agents
FROM: George S. Mitchell

Recently a comittee from the American Council on Race Relations visited Mr. William F. Patterson, Director of Apprentice Training, within the U. S. Department of Labor. Mr. Patterson agreed, so far as I know for the first time, to collect some statistics on apprenticeship training by race. Additionally, Patterson is reported to have said that in the twenty-seven states which operate apprenticeship training under an organized State Apprenticeship Council, he, Patterson, can do little against discrimination.

However, in the twenty-one states not having organized Apprenticeship Training Councils, apprenticeship training programs are frequently submitted to his office direct for approval. In such cases he can disallow discriminatory clauses in apprenticeship agreements, and has done so in one or two instances which first came to his attention through a press notice.

I suggest that if you run across instances of discrimination in formal apprenticeship, whether under a state approval system or under direct federal approval, you supply me with the facts, and I will lodge a protest with Patterson. Apparently, Patterson did not make it clear to the committee whether the discrimination had to be apparent in a written clause of the apprenticeship agreement or whether he, Patterson, would move in on instances where discrimination is accomplished invisibly by union rules (frequently a clause in rituals of unions) barring Negroes.

In any case, if you run across something, give me the facts, please.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w
P.S. According to such information as I have here, the following Southern states have State Apprenticeship Councils: Arkansas, Florida, Kentucky, Louisiana, North Carolina, and Virginia.

The following are subject to submission of apprenticeship agreements to Patterson's office for approval: Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Oklahoma.

May 5, 1946

MEMORANDUM TO: All field agents
FROM: George S. Mitchell

I learned day before yesterday in Washington that Circular 61 has now been "clarified" by Circular 99.

It is supposed to make things easier, and I think on the whole it will.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

Circular
No. 99

Veterans Administration
Washington, D. C., April 25, 1946.

INTERPRETATION AND APPLICATION OF "SUPERVISION OF VETERANS ENROLLED FOR COURSES OF TRAINING"
(V. A. CIRCULAR 61, 1946)

1. In V. A. Circular 61, March 14, 1946, Managers are authorized and directed to institute direct supervision of veterans enrolled in schools and training-on-the-job establishments to the extent necessary to protect the interests of the Government and the veteran. In the case of the veteran pursuing a course of education or training in a school or training-on-the-job establishment which has been offering over a period of years well-established and recognized courses of training, the Circular contemplates only that supervision which is required by V. A. Instruction No. 4, dated April 17, 1945, Title II, Public Law 346, 78th Congress. It is expected that such institutions will report to the appropriate Regional Office of the V. A. the attendance and the progress of the veteran in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 2 (A), (B) and (C), V. A. Instruction No. 4, dated April 17, 1945. However, if these institutions are unable to make reports in accordance with these instructions, it will be necessary for a training officer to obtain this information.

2. The last two sentences of paragraph 4, V. A. Circular 61, are being interpreted to mean that the employer-trainer must guarantee appointment to the position for which the veteran is being trained. This is incorrect. The V. A. assumes that where employers are offering bona fide courses of training to any employee they are offering such courses for the purpose of preparing that employee for appointment to the job for which he is being trained and further that the appointment will be made on or before the completion of the training. It is considered fair to assert that this is the common practice. Business establishments are not in the business of training people except where they need people to fill particular jobs. It is further believed that business establishments which are taking veterans into employment and processing them into training status under the Servicemen's Readjustment Act where there is no job to which each veteran will be appointed upon the completion of his course commonly are not giving the veteran a course of training in any reasonable conception of what a situation must be in order to constitute a course of training. The last two sentences in paragraph 4 are intended to emphasize that there is little point in training on-the-job unless such training is to qualify the veteran for that job or another job requiring the same qualifications. Circumstances in some cases may make it proper for a veteran to be trained by on-the-job method with advance understanding that he does not expect to be employed by the particular on-the-job establishment at which he will receive his training. For example, a veteran might wish to learn shoe repairing, carpentry, or any of a number of other crafts with the idea that he will establish his own business and therefore will not wish to accept employment with his employer-trainer. Nevertheless he would be training for a job which is attainable as a direct result of training rather than through promotion to the next higher position within the organization which advancement may be dependent upon many factors other than the completion of the so-called course of training. Furthermore, he will be training for a job which offers many opportunities for employment and is not limited in any sense to the establishment in which the training is received. Thus employment is available or will be available when training is completed because of the fact that there are many opportunities for such employment not necessarily at the place of training. If the employment objective is one which is limited to the establishment in which the training is to be given because a large proportion of the knowledge and the skills to be acquired are peculiar to the business of the particular establishment, then it is expected that the establishment will under normal conditions have a place to employ the veteran when training is completed, assuming, of course, that the veteran's conduct and progress during training continue to be satisfactory. No employer is expected to guarantee a job to a veteran who fails to demonstrate during the course of his training that he will merit employment. Neither is an employer-trainer expected to guarantee a position against unforseeable circumstances which may arise and make it necessary for him to reduce his force or at least not to expand it. On the other hand the V. A. must protect the interests of the veterans who elect bona fide courses of training-on-the-job by preventing an employer from taking veterans as trainees when the employer knows or has reason to think that employment will not be available when training is completed. The V. A. does not consider that the law is intended to provide a means for any employer to obtain help at less than standard wages with the idea that the Federal Government will make up the difference. Neither is it a means for subsidizing veterans in employment under the guise that they are being trained

3. A copy of this Circular will be sent by the Manager to the appropriate agency of the State responsible for approving training establishments; also, a copy will be sent to each training establishment in which veterans are now or hereafter enrolled and pursuing a course of training. Additional copies of this Circular will be forwarded under separate cover to Managers of Regional Offices to provide for this distribution. . (7)

By direction of the Administrator:

ELDON L. BAILEY,
Executive Assistant Administrator.

NOTE: This Circular has been given distribution priority over Circulars Nos. 97 and 98 in order that all field stations may receive the information contained therein at the earliest possible date. Circulars 97 and 98 will follow in due course.

Field Agent

May 16, 1946

MEMORANDUM TO: All Field Agents
FROM: George S. Mitchell

Here is a copy of an outline prepared by the Veterans Administration in Washington about on-the-farm training.

It is tentative and, I believe, as yet unissued.

I should expect some changes before final regulations are out.

On that account you must be quite careful not to let your copy of this go beyond your own hands.

I take it that this is the spirit intended by the Veterans Administration for local administration of on-the-farm training. With this information by you, you can judge performance as is.

Remember that any particular contract with the Veterans Administration may vary more or less with what is laid down here.

3/18/46

TENTATIVE OUTLINE OF TRAINING VETERANS IN AGRICULTURE

I. Types of Programs in Agricultural Education and Training.

Agricultural education and training courses are offered under three main types of programs:

1. Institutional programs offered primarily on the campus of agricultural schools, with some off-campus inspection trips and projects of a supplementary nature sometimes being included.

2. On-the-job training programs offered by employers with some off-the-job instruction of a supplementary nature usually included. The responsibility f for the accomplishment of the training rests with the employer rather than a school. The trainee trains for a position existing in the employer's establishment.

3. Combination training programs offered by agricultural schools, consisting of combinations of institutional instruction and on-the-job instruction, the two being so planned that each supplements the other and both contribute definitely to the accomplishment of the trainee's vocational objective. In this type of training, the responsibility for offering and providing the entire course rests with the school. The school offers institutional instruction and selects or approves the place where the trainee pursues the on-the-job portion of his program. This place is considered an extension of the school's facilities. The school furnishes both portions of the program, and when the job training portion of the program is not under an employee-trainer, the staff of the school offers all of the necessary job instruction.

II. Training Veterans on Farms

1. Wherever possible and practicable training veterans on farms will follow the plan set forth in paragraph number 1-3 above.

   Wherever this is impossible, the training should follow a plan made up of a combination of training described in paragraph numbered 1-2 above, supplemented by courses chosen from the best possibilities available from the types of training described in paragraph I-1 above.

2 In order to secure the best possible guidance and service in technical problems of the program of each veteran, the Veterans Administration through the Senior Agricultural Training Officer will organize state and local committees to be known as the Veterans Agricultural Training Committee. Wherever a state is divided by regional office boundary lines, the regional offices will coordinate their approach to the state agencies . The nucleus of these committees will consist of representatives of Vocational Agricultural Education and agemcies of the United States Department of Agriculture active in the area. The membership of the committees will be increased if expedient by adding such other persons as leading farmers and representatives of other institutions operating in the area. The state committee will assist in organizing county committees and, if necessary, community committees with the same agencies represented. All committee members will serve without remuneration from the Veterans Administration.

In order that each agency may make its macimum contribution to the training program of each trainee and in order that the instructor may schedule these contributions into the training program at the time, rate and in the manner to effect maximum results with the trainee, instructors and Agricultural Training Officers will use the services of these committees in an advisory capacity for the following purposes:

a. Coordinating the services and technical information to be offered by the agricultural agencies with the teaching agency

b. Recommending farms as to suitability for training.

c. A ssisting in developing individual training programs for veterans.

The work of this Committee will be closely coordinated with the work of the Veteran's County Agriculubal Advisory Committee which has been created by the Agricultural Extension Service pursuant to an agreement between the Veterans Administration and the United States Department of Agriculture (See all Regional Office Letter, with attachements, June 19, 1944.) This coordination may be effected by the Committees having common membership or by holding occasional meetings in common.

III. Training Veterans on Farms under Plan Described in Paragraph I-3 above, Public 16, 78th Congress.

An eligible veteran with employment objective of "farmer" (farm manager or farm operator) will be enrolled with an institution for full-time training when the institution is using as a part of its facilities:

a. A farm under the management of the trainee when requirements of Paragraph A below are met specifically and other applicable instructions are met in general.

b. A farm of an employer-trainer when it has been established, with reasonable certainty, that the trainee will have an opportunity at the end of the training period to enter into self-proprietorship operation of a farm with operational control to be established through ownership, lease, management agreement, or other tenure arrangement which will full protect the welfare of the veteran trainee.

An eligible veteran, whose employment objective as an employee is "farm foreman", "farm manager", or "farm hand", may be placed in training under an employer-trainer when those objectives show that attainment will require sufficient training in agriculture, skills or managerial ability to insure employability, and, as far as possible, to insure a continued demand for the trainee's services at a satisfactory income. The objective of "general farmhand" does not ordinarily meet these requirements.

A. S elf-Proprietorship.

1. Enrollment

Eligible veterans, with employment objectives of "farmer" (farm manager or farm operator) will be enrolled in a full-time course with an agricultural school or an agricultural teaching agency which institution must

provide satisfactory organized instruction in agriculture and related subject matter in the classroom, laboratory, shop or other satisfactory facility and additional operational instruction on the veteran's farm.

2. Training program.

A training program will be prepared by the Veterans Administration training officer with the assistance of the teaching agency, the Veterans Administration Agricultural Training Committee, and the veteran, which program will include organized classroom instruction and operational instruction, both based on a complete farm and home plan. The farm and home plan will be developed, after the trainee's farm has been surveyed, to include:

a. Financial statement.

b. Budget of income and expenses.

c. Schedule of production and disposal of crops, livestock, and livestock products.

d. Inventory of livestock, equipment and supplies.

e. Statement of family living to be furnished by the farm.

3. Farm Requirements

Before approving a farm as a proper place for a trainee to take the on-farm portion of his course of training, the Veterans Administration should be assured of these general requirements.

a. The veteran must have complete control of the operation of the farm through ownership, lease, management agreement, or other tenure arrangement which fully protects the welfare of the veteran.

b. The farm must be of sufficient size and suitability for full-time instruction in all farm management operations necessary to the particular type of farming selected and of sufficient size and suitability so that the operation of it together with the course of training will occupy the full time of the trainee.

c. The size and quality of the farm must indicate that it will be sufficiently productive to insure the trainee a satisfactory income under normal conditions at the end of the training program.

4. Instructional Requirements.

The veteran shall be enrolled with the institution for a full-time course of instruction including:

a. Off-farm instruction of not less than 200 hours per year in agriculture and related subject matter, not less than eight hours of which shall be given in any month.

b. On-farm instruction of not less that 100 hours per year, at least 50% of which must be made applicable specifically to the veteran's individual farm by visits of not less than twice a month.

c. Instruction, guidance and assignments of work and study covering all phases of the operation of the farm between visits of the instructor.

The instruction both on and off the farm must be given at a time, rate and in a manner best suited to the needs of the trainee as indicated by his farm and home plan and the operation of the plan.

In order to properly assist the veteran to organize, interpret and apply instructions and information to his own needs and farm conditions, the instructor who gives the on-farm instruction should also give the off-farm instruction.

5. Supervision by the Veterans Administration.

Veterans Administration Agriculutral Training Officers are required to supervise all veterans in training. This shall include visits to the farm at least once a month and visits as frequent as feasible to the off-the farm classes. The training officer will coordinate his supervision of the trainee with the agriculture teacher, who will assist the training officer in determining the conduct of the trainee and his progress toward rehabilitation. This type of training should be carefully appraised to determine if the instruction:

a. Is timely and is based on the trainee's farm and home plan.

b. Is of a practical nature and in accord with recommended local farm practices.

c. Assists the veteran to solve his current problems.

d. Develops the trainee's ability to make plans and to make managerial decisions relative to the management and operation of the farm.

e. Is making maximum use of the information and services available to the trainee from other agricultural and educational agencies.

B. Training under and Employer-Trainer.

1. Enrollment.

An eligible veteran whose employment objective as an employee is "farm foreman", "farm manager", or "farm hand" will enroll for a full-time course of instruction with an agricultural school or agricultural teaching agency, which institution must provide on-farm instruction and organized instruction in agriculture and related subject matter in the classroom laboratory, shop or other satisfactory facility. In addition, the Veterans Administration will secure under Form 1904 agreement, a successful operating farmer who will train the veteran in all the elements of an adequate individual training program, under his direction, and pay the trainee a wage commensurate with the value of his services under training conditions. The employer-trainer will agree to cooperate with the institution, with which the trainee is enrolled, in order to effect maximum results with the training program.

2. Training Program

A training program will be prepared by the training officer with the assistance of the teaching agency and the Veterans Agricultural Training Committee. The program will provide:

a. Organized classroom instruction.

b. Instruction on the job.

c. Coordination of "a" and "b" by the instructor of the institution with which the trainee is enrolled.

3. Selection of the Employer-Trainer.

Selection of the employer-trainer is the resonsibility of the Veterans Administration and approval will be given on an individual basis with full consideration for the direct relationship to the trainee and his ultimate rehabilitation.

Farmers who have demonstrated their ability as outstanding general farmers or as farmers who have successfully specialized in phases of the occupation pertinent to the trainee's objective and who possess the ability necessary to assist in the training of the veteran will be approved to provide the on-the-job portion of the course. The employer-trainer's farm should be of sufficient size and suitability for full-time instruction.

4. Instructional Requirements.

The veteran shall be enrolled with the institution for a full-time course of instruction, including:

a. Off-farm instruction of not less than 200 hours per year in agriculture and related subject matter, and not less than eight hours of which shall be given in any month.

b. On farm instruction by the instructor of the institution of at least 50 hours per year and not less than one farm visit per month. This instruction will include the relating of the off-farm instruction with that which the trainee receives from the employer-trainer.

c. Instruction from the employer-trainer invarious farm operations, as indicated by the trainee's Training Program Form 1905a.

The instruction both on and off the farm must be given at a time, rate, and in a manner best suited to the needs of the trainee as indicated by his individual training program.

In order to properly assist the veteran to organizw, interpret and apply instruction and information to his own needs and farm conditions, the instructor who gives the instruction on the farm must also give the off-farm instruction.

5. Supervision by the Veterans Administration.

Veterans A dministration Agricultural Training Officers are required to supervise all veterans training in agriculture. This shall include visits to the farm at least once a month. The Training Officer will coordinate his supervision of the trainee with the agriculture teacher who will assist the training officer in determining the conduct of the trainee and his progress toward rehabilitation.

This type of training should be carefully appraised to determine:

a. If the instruction is timely, practical, and in accord with recommended local farm practices.

b. If the instruction off-the farm is being related to that which the trainee is receiving from the employer-trainer.

c. If the trainee is receiving compensation commensurate with his services under training conditions.

d. If the employer-trainer is instructing the trainee in all the different phases of his training program as listed on Form 1905a.

e. If the course of instruction is making maximum use of the information and services available to the trainee from other agricultural and educational agencies.

IV. Training Veterans On Farms Under Plan Described in Paragraph I-3 above. Public 346, 78th C ongress.

Training under this plan, offered to veterans eligible under Public 346, may follow the same pattern as outlined for veterans eligible under Public 16. In accordance with the Law and Regulations, the following fundamental differences must be observed::

1. The course of instruction will be provided by agricultural schools or other teaching agencies which have been approved by the appropriate state agency for giving this type of training under Public Law 346.

2. Selection of the course which the veteran desires is a matter of his own choice.

3. The length of the training period is determined by the predetermined length of the course and by the extent of his entitlement under the law.

4. Preparation of the training program will be the primary responsibility of the institution offering the course.

5. Approval of the farm and/or the selection of the employer-trainer, where the veteran will receive his on-the-job instruction, will be the responsibility of the training agency.

Field agent

May 17, 1946

MEMORANDUM TO: Mr. Horace A. Bohannon
FROM: George S. Mitchell

Mr. Merkerson's brother-in-law was in yesterday. He has recently been at Madison and at Marietta.

He says there is a good chance of working out some job training at Madison and maybe Marietta.

At Madison, see J. B. Thomas, principal of Burney Street High.

At Marietta, see Prof. Woods, Perkerson High School.

Telephone Memorandum

To Dr. Mitchell

Date 5/16/46 Time 1:05

WHILE YOU WERE OUT YOU WERE CALLED BY

Name Mrs. Pittman

of

Phone He-5-5595 Extension

Message Please call —

Palmer letter

G. B. Thomas
Prof of Botany U.S.
Madison Ga

Marietta
Prof Woods
Professor U.S.

June 5, 1946

MEMORANDUM TO: All Field Agents
FROM: George S. Mitchell

Here is an interesting paragraph from the June 4 report of Mr. Marcus Gunter written from Chattanooga, Tennessee.

> "I have found that the twenty dollar weekly readjustment allotment is still blocking job training. When training opportunities are opened up to Negro veterans, that will be only half of our battle. There must be some program to interest these men to learn trades. At the meeting that was held at the Legion Hall, the men present said they would have pamphlets printed, with this information: 'Veterans, Be Smart! Save the $1,040 until You Really Need It!' I think this is a darn good idea."

I don't know what use you can make of this, but consider it and see.

Advice of this kind can come with the best grace from veterans organizations and particularly from Negroes within veterans organizations.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

June 5, 1946

MEMORANDUM TO: Field Agents
FROM: George S. Mitchell

In a few weeks I intend to assign Mr. Horace Bohannon full time to a job of compiling a directory of veterans organizations in the Southern states. He has already attended the Chicago Conference of the United Negro and Allied Veterans and will be going in a week or so to the AVC meeting at Des Moines, Iowa, and he has been active in Georgia in the Georgia Veterans League, so that he has a start.

You can shorten the period of his study, and greatly improve it, and save us all money, if you will systematically collect in your travels the information that Mr. Bohannon will be needing. Here is his list of the things he wants about veterans organizations.

I know you have a lot to do, but I know also that you are constantly in contact with people who have this information. Please take the trouble to get the information in the desired detail and send it in. It should be in a separate letter addressed to me for the attention of Mr. Horace Bohannon. A separate letter for each separate organization.

By organization is meant something more than a single post or chapter, unless it happens to be an organization with only one post or chapter. That is to say, what he wants is the head office, etc. for each organization. If you run into a post of an organization whose head offices are at some distance, send what information you get about the organization gleaned from the officials of its post, and we can find and interview officials at the headquarters later.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Clearcopy Onion Skin
MADE IN U.S.A.

INFORMATION WANTED ON VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS

1 Name of organization

2 Character - make-up

3 Aims and Purposes

4 Officers and their addresses

5 Approximate membership

6 Approximate Area covered

7 Thinking in terms of the "old line" veterans organizations, i.e.Legion and VFW, as to competing or infiltration

8 Effectiveness of organization in community or any area. Has the organization made any outstanding contribution?

PAUL D. WILLIAMS, RICHMOND
PRESIDENT
P. B. YOUNG, NORFOLK
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT
FRANK W. SPENCER, SAVANNAH
SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT
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DIRECTOR OF VETERANS SERVICES
RAY WARWICK
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

Southern Regional Council, Inc.
ROOM 432, 63 AUBURN AVENUE, N. E. ATLANTA 3, GEORGIA

A Council to attain, through research and action, the ideals and practices of equal opportunity for all peoples in the South.

June 8, 1946

REPORT OF BOHANNON

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

This past week found me working in middle Georgia in spite of my plans to go to South Georgia.

As I had promised the veterans in Jackson that I would do anything in my power to help them in any way I could, I could not refuse to meet a gathering of about sixty men on Tuesday night at their high school.

The men seemed pretty much up in the air about two particular sections of a talk I had made previously, namely: farm training and organization. One of them said to me: "Mr. Bohannon, we are not all educated or what you might say college men, but we believe we are all capable of learning something." I told him to cut the "Mr. business" and "let's be veterans". This made them all feel very good. I went on to outline the procedure for farm training. We came to this set of conclusions:

(1) that the men are ready to go into farm training,

(2) that the absence of vocational agricultural course may work a hardship,

(3) that I should inquire of State officials as to the best method of getting started under said handicaps.

They were more receptive to the idea of forming a local veterans group right then and there with the hope of becoming affiliated with an all-Negro arganization later. I told them briefly about all the veterans groups with which I am acquainted. They are a gracious and a grateful set of people in this town. Some woman got up and suggested that they pass the collection plate for me. I refused it and asked that they start their treasury.

Later that night while waiting for a bus (abour 3:30 AM) the local police came up to me and said, "Are you from Atlanta or where?" I told him I worked out of Atlanta. (I could see what was troubling him was the question of just what I was doing there.) I proceeded to tell him I was talking to the colored veterans of his town, advising them to try to get into some type training that would prepare them for the future and to stop idling away their time partying and getting in and out of jail. He

gave the expected comment: "Somebody needs to talk to these guys. Some of them just don't want to work." I told him that I didn't believe most veterans white or colored were just lazy. I told him of how some of his very own (Jackson) men had helped to string the telephone wires that helped to defeat Germany and of how largely Negroes figured in the transportation of troops, supplies to General Patton's and other armies in Europe and of how many Negroes worked on the Ledo Road in Asia. (I used these well known names and places because I was sure he had read of them.)

I said that during these times the men had learned new trades and liked them and thought they would like to practice them. He then said; "Well, it seems that they would take some sort of a job until they could work up to what they want." I came in again by saying that I wanted him to do a little arithmetic with me with himself in the place of the veteran. A job which he doesn't like is offered at $14.00 a week and he can get $20.00 for doing nothing . He took the $20.00. He said he hadn't thought of it that way before. I asked him to think on it and if possible to try to get other white people to do so. He wished me luck in getting farm training started and I took the bus which had now come.

I made my way to Macon, Georgia, where I wanted to attend the State meet of the United Negro and Allied Veterans. My impression of the meeting was not good, but since the Macon manager of the VA and a contact representative who serves 17 counties was present I went right to work.

Neither the manager, a Mr. Leicester, nor the contact representative wanted to talk to me at first but when he (Leicester) said something about circular 61 tying up employees I asked about circular 99. They apparently decided I knew something of the situation and began to talk more freely. They told me they were afraid of exploitation of veterans but were pushing job training just the same. They both thought it should have been the State Veterans Service Board that resigned, instead of the Council.

Dr. Griffin, the contact man put it- "Those guys are certainly not educators. Why to hear one of them talk, you'd think the board needed some training. (Mr. Leicester said he had been a friend of Mr. C. Arthur Cheatham since boyhood so --------).

The meeting was important in that it showed very clearly that young Negro veterans are looking for a square deal and they believe that if organization will bring a square deal they are all out for organization.

One thing significant about this meeting is that for the first time in recent years, I actually saw and heard a candidate for the Georgia State Legislature, Gus Bernd, appeal to Negroes for votes. It was both open and direct. A copy of his platform is carried in the current issue of the Macon Voice, local Negro weekly. (I thought you might like to know.)

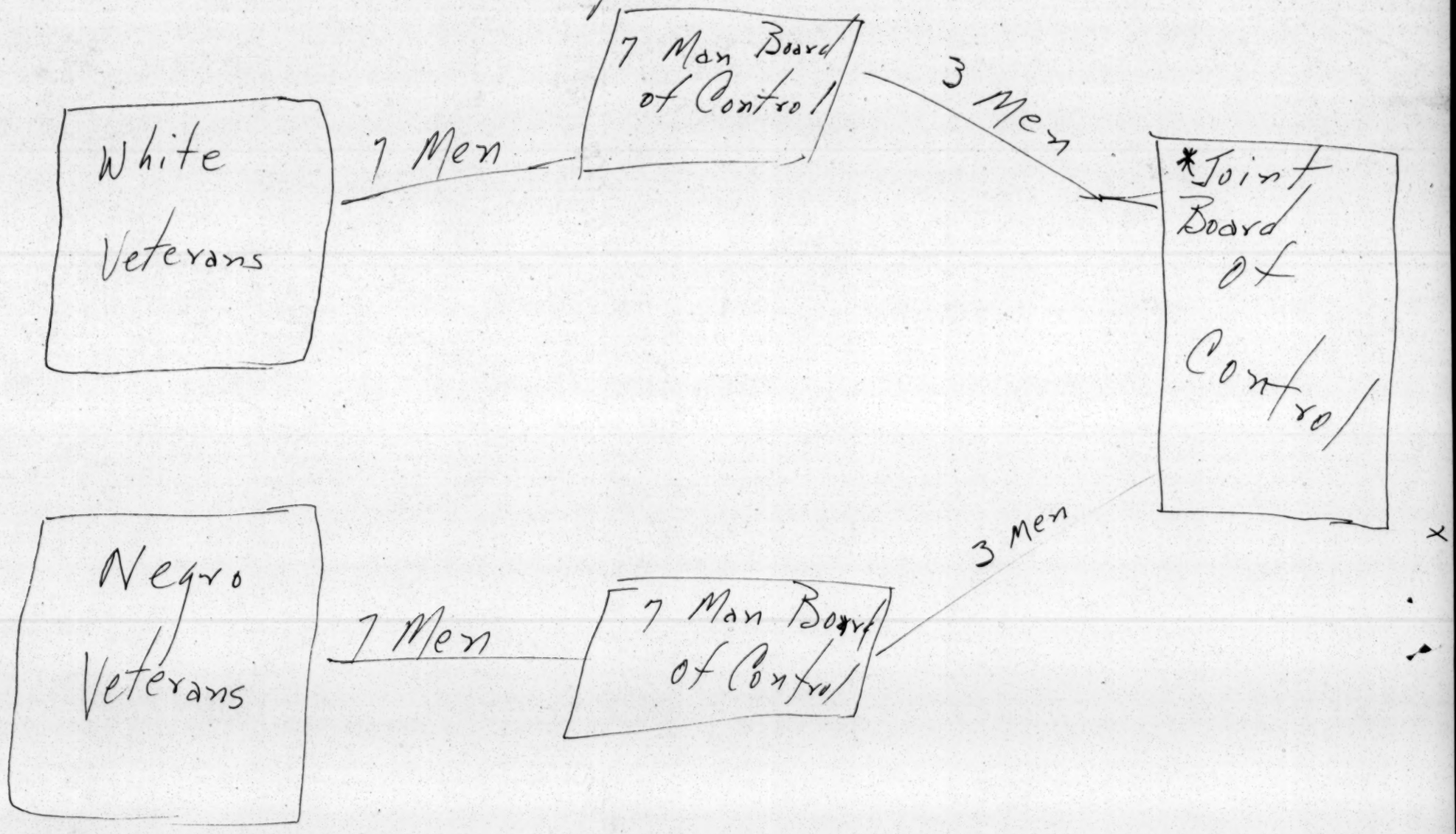
At the Booker T. Washington Community Center, I had another long talk with

Mr. W. B. Sheftal, the director. He told me he had been receiving our publications and had placed them within easy reach of the veterans. Mr. Sheftal can, more easily than any one in Macon, contact the Negro veteran since a great deal of the counseling service , especially Negro, is left to him, although he has no official capacity with Bibb County Veterans Service Center. He has more than 500 names and addresses in his files. He has done and is doing a great job gratuitously.

Mr. Sheftal gave me a little hope of the Middle Georgia Veterans Assn. which is an organization of veterans both white and Negro. He said that very little is being done now because there is little or no program. This to me seemed odd since the group was organized as a "pressure group" and since the head of the organization is the director of the local veterans service center. One other thing that came to me is that during these (election) times such a group should have more in its hands than it can handle.

I took a brief look at Milledgeville and Byron, then entrained for Atlanta.

Middle Georgia Veterans ASSN.



1- Every man who entered service from Bibb County is automatically a member upon discharge.

* Contrary to Newspaper reports the organization is interracial here only.

July 2, 1946

MEMORANDUM TO: Horace A. Bohannon
FROM: George S. Mitchell

I need some information about training programs for Negro veterans. Please try to get it back to me by Monday, July 8th.

What I want is your best guess as to the number of white veterans receiving respectively job training, institutional training, and farm training, and the number of Negro veterans receiving each, as of the end of June '46, in Georgia.

PAUL D. WILLIAMS, RICHMOND
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July 5-13

REPORT OF BOHANNON

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

For the past ten days I have tried to hit the high spots of Georgia in the interest of the conference of July 21. In addition to this I have continued to talk job and farm training wherever I've gone.

My first stop was Athens where I found everybody excited about the coming elections. It just happened that I came into the town of Athens on the meeting day of the Negro V.F.W. post. I attended and after the business part of the meeting I was allowed to speak. I talked about the coming conference, the cause and the desired effects. I then asked for questions in the hope of uncovering some new situation. I learned about the U.S.E.S.'s method of bumping men off the Unemployment Rolls after three or four weeks; I learned of a vocational class in brickmasonry which has all white instructors; of a Negro veteran of Georgia who wishes to attend Michigan's School of Dentistry and who has applied for state aid; and of an anti-vagrancy campaign.

It seems this (Athens) post is the strongest Negro post south of Richmond. The commander said that he had the solution to the compensation problem and the one regarding vagrancy, but would need help on the others. Then they all could see the purpose of this conference and voted to send three men from their own post.

The commander, Harry Jones, a post office worker, claims to "have the respect of all the major men in town". When they found out how Negro veterans were being bumped off the $20 rolls Jones as a V.F.W. state officer asked the V.F.W. to lead the fight against these practices. So they seem to have it under control.

Jones says that the day he read of the vagrancy law in the papers he went immediately to see the Chief of Police who promised that no Negro veterans would be arrested. It seems that the law was brought about after a labor dispute at a textile mill.

Another very active man in Athens is Ray Ware, former Air Forces Major, Secretary of Samaritan Order, Head of Athens Progressive Democrats, affectionately called "Black Mayor". He gave me letters to Mayo Buckley, State

Commander, V.F.W., T. G. Thress, manager subregional office VA, and a man named Stevens of Veterans Service Office.

I took leave of Ware to go to the VA office. I met Mr. Thress , and after talking with him for ten minutes or so he asked me to take a seat. He was visibly jumpy and preferred to write a letter answering some of my questions rather than discuss the matter there. Not wishing to embarrass him further I left the questionnaire and went to the Veterans Service Office. Here I met Mr. Stevens, a veteran of this (II) war, and a very nice person. He wanted to know just who I am and what I am doing so he could speak frankly. Athens isn't doing much for the Negro veteran. There are very few in the region training on the job and none in farm training. I asked Stevens what if anything was about to be done. He said there was a course in brick-masonry and one about to be started in carpentery. He said "my biggest problem is job training".

On over to Augusta I had talks with Dean Graham of Paine College who although he won't be able to attend the conference, gave me some good points to be used. I talked with Mr. Dove who is the head of the V.F.W. post who assured me of some representatives at the conference. A good look around Augusta showed the veterans idle as school is closed. Few are doing anything but sitting around.

On to Savannah where I had a long talk with Mr. Frank Callen of the Boys Club and a man named Eubanks, head of a veterans organization. Mr. Callen told of how he had served as a volunteer interviewer at the Rehabilitation Center for awhile and when the work became more than he could handle in his spare time had asked the director to take on a Negro full-time. The director, a man named Hawes, hemmed and hawed but has done nothing yet.

(I found the same situation in Savannah as in Augusta. The Negro veteran is not being offered any decent jobs so he just does nothing).

Out of this meeting with Callen and Eubanks they undertook to send 10-15 men to the Atlanta conference.

Macon and Columbus produced little that is different from the other towns visited. Both promised delegates to the conference and both professed need for such a conference.

July 19, 1946

MEMORANDUM TO: All Field Agents
FROM: George S. Mitchell

I attended in New York on July 12th the second meeting of the Conference on Minority Veterans called by the American Council on Race Relations. Attendance was about as before, perhaps eighty people. Neither the Legion nor the DAV was represented. Members were there from AVC, UNAVA, and two or three other veterans groups, together with a representative of the Negro Nurses and people from various organizations interested in the problem.

Talks were made by officials of the Retraining and Reemployment Administration, USES, National Housing Administration, VA, and possibly by another agency or two. The agency officials were mostly explaining what steps they had taken to correct matters complained of by the Committee from the first meeting.

As to USES, I got the impression that in Washington at the top it wishes to do a good job. An interesting development not yet publicly announced is a series of brief in-service training schools on minority problems. These they hope will spread.

A number of steps have been taken toward additional Negro employment.

The Wyatt Housing Program apparently contemplates a 2,200,000 entirely private housebuilding job and only a half million public houses. The NHA man said under present arrangements there is little they can do to affect employment by private builders who put up private houses, but they would perform on the half million public ones. If the Wagner-Ellender-Taft bill passes, some additional control of distribution of new houses for minorities would be possible. On the whole I got the feeling that it would be up to local Negro groups to press hard on they Mayor's Housing Committee in each town or city to get what is rightfully theirs. In NHA's Southeastern region, 16% of these Mayor's Housing Committees now have minority representation; in the Southwest, 20% have representation.

There are some good openings for Negro officials in the National Housing Program.

On behalf of the VA, it was announced that on July 11th official instructions had gone out to the various deputy administrators to establish additional contact offices for the convenience of veterans of minority groups. It was carefully explained that these new contact offices would not be segregated in that any VA office would be entirely open for the service of any veteran.

Also, VA announced that it had sent out on July 11 Circular #165, superceding Circular 15, relating to non-discrimination. In Circular #15, General Bradley had said there would be expected compliance; Circular #165, Item #4, is now said to contain a positive instruction that vacancies shall be filled on a basis of merit and fitness without discrimination.

I was privately informed by others at the meeting that Circular #165 also contains language about non-disturbance of local patterns. I have not seen this circular, but am trying to get some for distribution to you.

As to hospitalization, it was said on behalf of VA that when investigation shows discrimination, VA will try to eliminate the discrimination. It was announced that until a survey now under way is completed, no new entirely Negro hospitals will be built by VA and that the proposed Negro veterans hospital at McComb, Mississippi, has been definitely and finally abandoned.

VA explained that as to other agencies of Government cooperating with it, it had at present no compulsory power on matters of discrimination. It was stated by someone in the audience that the NAACP at its recent convention had pushed for an amendment to basic legislation that would give definite authority to VA in its dealings with other agencies handling veterans. VA said it would try to help through its "training facilities officers".

The conference passed additional resolutions and authorized a committee of veterans to call on President Truman and express the vigorous discontent of minority veterans with the services being received by them. This was taken as something of a slap by the various agency officials present, some of whom seemed to think it was tough on them to go to the boss. Additionally, the conference set up a continuing organization which will be representative of the various groups which have been present at the two meetings, and will apparently have a committee composed entirely of veterans which will have a special relationship to public information on their problems.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Field Agents

July 22, 1946

MEMORANDUM TO: All Field Agents
FROM: George S. Mitchell

Mr. F. P. Thomas, working in Alabama, reports that the Alabama State Veterans Affairs Board undertook on July 1 to employ a Negro liaison officer. The State Service Commissioner said that the new official will travel throughout Alabama to acquaint Negro veterans with their opportunities under the GI Bill.

So far as I know, this is the first instance in the Southern states of employment of a Negro official directly on the staff of a State veterans servicing agency.

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Field Agent

August 22, 1946

Mr. Horace A. Bohannon
63 Auburn Avenue, NE
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Mr. Bohannon:

I suggest that you mail out these extra copies to such persons who in your judgment are most apt to get something done along this line.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

PAUL D. WILLIAMS, RICHMOND
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August 22, 1946

MEMORANDUM TO: All Field Agents
FROM: George S. Mitchell

An important benefit is possible under an act passed just at the end of the session. It enables the Federal Government to build temporary educational facilities other than housing; i.e., school buildings, etc.

Congress appropriated seventy-five million dollars for this purpose. It was allocated to the Federal Works Agency, which will run the program through its Bureau of Community facilities.

I have collected some information about the program. It is not necessarily accurate so officials must be guided to other and appropriate officials. I have sent for copies of the act, but they have not come. I will send you one when I get it.

The act is Public Law 697, which was formerly Senate Bill 2085. It is an amendment to the Lanham Act.

I understand that the act enables the U. S. Government to provide buildings for educational purposes, without any stated distinction between secondary schools and institutions of college level. Asministrative officials are strongly of the view that it was the intent of Congress that by far the greater part of this money should go to colleges. Apparently that is where the demand was coming from. Yet the law covers secondary schools. The Federal Works Agency is believed to have reached an administrative determination that such funds from this appropriation as may be put into secondary schools will go exclusively to trade and vocational schools. In reaching this determination I believe they were advised by the U. S. Office of Education.

The money is not specifically allocated by States, but of course in administration the FWA will try to spread the money fairly as between the States. I understand that tentative allocations for the Southern States run between $800,000 and $1,400,000.

FWA in deciding what institutions will benefit will make use of the U. S. Office of Education, whose certification of approval will be indispensible. However, approval by the Office of Education does not necessarily mean that the money will be forthcoming, as it would be expected that the Office of Education would approve more buildings than the funds available can erect; therefore, the final decision as to what to put up rests with the FWA.

FWA presumably will let contracts for the work. The agency has some distaste for a multiplicity of small scattered contracts as involving high administrative costs.

You can see, therefore, that the tendency will be for the money to go to colleges. As the agency perhaps feels that the Congress prefers that the money go to colleges, it would be my advice to any group of persons trying to get some of the money put onto a vocational or trade school of secondary level that the group take pains to have it made clear to the Federal Works Agency and the U. S. Office of Education that important members of the State Congressional delegation, Senators, or Representatives, or several of both from the State in question, support the move to put some of the money onto the secondary school in question.

FWA might also feel that if it went into assistance to secondary education, it would be opening a field of limitless expenditure. That could be safeguarded, perhaps, by provision State by State of a planned program of vocational education.

An important criterion in deciding what institution will get the money will be the percentage of veterans in attendance. However, it is recognized that proponents of buildings needed to enable non-vocational high schools to run a trade or vocational department, which department would be heavily patronized by veterans, would have an argument in that heavy departmental use by veterans, notwithstanding that the entire school might have a low percentage of veterans.

FWA is authorized under the act not merely to erect buildings, but if necessary to equip them where the needed equipment is available as surplus Government property. Institutions have to put up a site (unless Government-owned land is available) and they will be expected to lay on utilities.

For the South, the regional organization of the Federal Works Agency is as follows:

Virginia reports to Henry Sullivan, Division Engineer, Bureau of Community Facilities, Federal Works Agency, Washington, D. C.

Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and Florida report to O. T. Ray, Division Engineer, Federal Works Agency, Atlanta, Ga.

Kentucky reports to Chicago.

Arkansas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, and Texas report to the Division Engineer, Federal Works Agency, Fort Worth, Texas.

What this all means is that a determined group of citizens linked with school officials has a chance of getting a good building and its equipment for trade training courses for veterans. Chances are quite good for colleges, slim but quite worth taking for secondary schools. Act quickly.

Of course such a group would have to get the written approval of the local school officials and of the appropriate State school officials. My guess is it ought also to get busy with its Congressional delegation, to be sure that approval of the Office of Education is given and that finally the FWA does build the building.

I assume that dilligent effort would cause the several affected agencies to pay some mind to just distribution of funds by races.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

September 23, 1946

MEMORANDUM TO: All Field Agents and Former Field Agents
FROM: George S. Mitchell

Please read the attached item from the American Vocational Journal, then scratch your name from the list and send it along to the agent whose name follows yours.

We have to work it in this way because we have only the one copy. Postage is enclosed.

Harry L. Wright
1244 Pittsburgh St.
Jackson, Miss.

Cyrus Johnson
336 S. Salisbury St.
Raleigh, N. C.

Emory T. Judy
830 Xenia Avenue
Yellow Springs, Ohio

Wesley R. Brazier
1950 Jackson Avenue
New Orleans 13, La.

Theodore R. Moses
1719 Louisiana Ave.
New Orleans, La.

Jewel M. Tatum
2020 Cable Street
Beaumont, Texas

Frank P. Thomas
2615 Eleventh St.
Tuscaloosa, Ala.

W. B. Twitty
Allsboro, Ala.

John W. Merkerson
583 Houston St.
Atlanta, Georgia

Marcus H. Gunter
916 First Ave., Sou.
Nashville, Tenn.

Ibra B. January
2631 De Siard St
Monroe, La.

George S. Mitch
Sou. Regional Co
63 Auburn Avenue
Atlanta, Ga.

Field Agent

September 25, 1946

MEMORANDUM TO: Field Agents
FROM: George S. Mitchell

It looks as though I will have to make some special study on vocational schools myself.

After running through your memory of the Negro vocational schools for veterans you have seen or heard of in your area, will you list for me the one or two in your area that seem to you to present most interestingly the problems involved in getting such a school going well.

I have in mind going to five, six, or eight such schools and studying them closely.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

November 18, 1946

Mr. J. Lewis Henderson
708 Hancock Street
Bay St. Louis, Mississippi

Dear Lewis:

I do appreciate your letting me know about the surplus problem.

There is not much I can do about it, but I will let each of my field men know, and they may be able to stir up some pressure here and there.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

COPY

Dr. Mitchell: I suspect that Negroes are ~~fairing~~ getting very little out of WAA sales. I doubt if any Negro veterans in this section realize the extent of the subsidy being handed to a few white veterans. For example, I feel reasonably certain that two white vets in this county have purchased more WAA goods than all other vets combined. That seems very wrong. J.L.H.

706 Hancock St.
Bay St. Louis, Mississippi

November 14, 1946

War Assets Administration
New Orleans, La.

Gentlemen:

I have been anxious to buy some surplus government property but to date my purchases have been very small, for reasons which you should know.

Recently I placed an order for a few things at the Gulfport Naval Base, costing about $37. After waiting more than three hours I was told that it would be the next day before I could pick the goods up. I was forced to make an extra trip to the base to get the things.

I am convinced that WAA is clearly catering to big business, to the disadvantage of small concerns. I cite the recent fixed price sale of canvas army cots. Not being a veteran I would have had to buy a minimum of a carload (2400 to 3000 cots), which was entirely too many, so I couldn't buy any. The carload minimum was entirely too high, in my opinion. I could cite numerous examples like that above.

From my own observation I suspect that only a very small proportion of veterans are benefitting from the WAA sales, and many of those few are undoubtedly purchasing in behalf of large concerns which they do not own.

I have talked with veterans who said they had priority to buy surplus in amounts ranging from $25,000 to $150,000. From price quotations at WAA sales I have observed that veterans can often get discounts up to one-third or more, which non-veterans cannot get. Thus it is possible for some veterans to enjoy mark-downs of many thousands of dollars when buying government surplus. This, in effect, is a government subsidy to a small proportion of veterans. My guess is that more than 95 per cent of the veterans--and they are likely most in need of help--are not benefitting from this gigantic handout from their government.

Certainly not more than 5 per cent of veterans are among the big-volume purchases at WAA sales. You should know the exact proportion. I don't. But their number is small in proportion, at any rate. Yet they are receiving a subsidy out of all reasonable proportion from the government. I can't believe that Congress intended that such a small proportion of ~~g~~ veterans should get so much from the spoils of war.

Very truly yours,

J. Lewis ~~Hd~~ Henderson

Field Agent

October 11, 1946

MEMORANDUM TO: All field Agents
FROM: George S. Mitchell

The Southern Regional Council will hold its Annual Membership Meeting on November 13 and 15. At the same time the Fellows of the Council will be invited in, expenses paid. This meeting will be on November 14 and 15.

I think it will be well for you to come into Atlanta for both meetings and plan to spend an extra day or two here, so that you and I can talk in general.

This of course will be a trip at the expense of the Council.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

o field agents

This is or interest.

I don't know that there is much we can do, but you must keep your eyes open for an opportunity to straighten it out.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

November 21, 1946

MEMORANDUM TO: Field Agents

Mrs. Tillison is now handling the bookkeeping, and she has requested that - except in an emergency - all requisitions for travel advance and expense accounts be turned in one day <u>before</u> the checks are issued. Therefore, in the future our travel expense blanks will be turned in as usual each Thursday, but the checks will not go into the mail until Friday; and requisitions for travel advance will not be honored until the day following the day they are turned in.

She has also requested that the men working on a per diem basis turn in their record of days worked during the half-month on the fourteenth and twenty-ninth of each month. This will give her more time to make up the payroll.

AW

Field agent

December 31, 1946

Mr. Horace A. Bohannon
305 Alaska Avenue, NE
Atlanta 5, Georgia

Dear Horace:

What is the name and address of that Oklahoma veterans organization that was listed to you the other day?

I thought we would send that guy a flock of our Oklahoma pamphlets.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

MEMORANDUM TO: All Field Agents
FROM: George S. Mitchell

Mr. Marcus Gunter who is now working in Tennessee writes in his report of April 15th about a device used in one town that you might find it possible to get copied elsewhere. This was a town in west Tennessee. The principal of the high school is also the Vo-Ag instructor and Negro County Agent. Sometime back, on his own hook, he went to the Selective Service Board and obtained a list of all Negro veterans who had returned to the county.

Then he went to see each of these veterans personally and told him his rights as a veteran. He obtained sixty applications for on-the-farm training and a large number of applications for on-the-job training. He is trying to get the county to set up a trade school for Negro veterans.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Field Agent

MEMORANDUM TO: Mr. Horace A. Bohannon
FROM: George S. Mitchell

In the last report from Gunter in Tennessee he speaks of a chance to get some men placed in job training with one of the life insurance companies in Chattanooga provided something or other is shaken loose in the Atlanta home office.

Could you look into and advise yourself whether to approach the proper Atlanta officials on it?

Bohannon

REPORT OF VIOLATION OF SELECTIVE SERVICE ACT

In a recent visit to Augusta, Ga., I met a man, J. M Bassett of 1229 Holly Street who told me that he was recently discharged from the service to find that his job (fireman Ga. R R) was no more. He has a total tenure, including service time of 19 months, of ten (10) years. Strangely enough, the Georgia Railroad has taken on at the Augusta shop some twenty-five (25) new men (white) in his same job. He has never been discharged officially but when he goes to find out about his work he is steadily passed from one man to another. This to me represents a clear violation of the Selective Service Act, Public Law 783, 76th Congress, Sec. 8.

Mr. Bassett promised to do all in his power to give us the proper information, in the case it is needed, to go to any court, at his own expense, in the land. He also gave me the names of three other men who are in the same boat. They are:

Roosevelt Wheeler
747 Fenwick Street
Augusta, Georgia
10 years service

John W. Tillman, Jr.
848 Calhoun St.
Augusta, Ga.
8 or 9 years service

T. N. Walton
1108 Harrison
Augusta, Ga.
7 or 8 years service

Mr. Bassett lives at 1229 Holly Street, Augusta, and will accept phone call at any time.

Mayor Collier
Coal man 18

McDermott
Surgery Co
720 Poydras St

16-346 ?

Major Adler Atlanta
J.S.S.

JSM

Talked to him March 11 about Augusta men who were not reemployed by Ga. Railroad.

Int with John M. Slaton Deputy Adm V.A.

I Introduction: Robt Thompson Atl Urban League, Jacob Henderson Atlanta Urban League, Nelson Jackson National Urban League; Bohannon Soc Regional Council.

II Question #1 (about use of Negro professional personnel in VA.)

A. (Mr Slaton) Announces opening of A.U. Guidance Center Sept 16, 1946

Question (about regions outside Atlanta)

A. This question is now being studied by V.A. to ascertain where other centers, contact offices can be open which will use Negro personnel.

Something about overloading the pendulum the

Question - How can you hope to get a true picture if some Negroes don't help to make the (above) study?

Slaton A. I hadn't given it much thought.

Q. Mr. Slaton, we are trying to tell that Negroes left this state to serve in the armed forces in a ratio with whites of 1 to 3. He returns to find the jobs in the V.A. are not being given in a ratio of even 1 to 10. I do say that this particular area of yours (S.C., Ga., Tenn., Ala., and Fla.) has more Negroes than any other and yet you don't have a race relations advisor.

A. Well now we do have Mr. Albright who was

here just last week (buzzes secretary for report on Albright's visit), and with groups like the Urban League making regular reports, I can keep pretty well abreast of what's going on.

But don't you see that is just what we are driving at. No Negro has any official capacity in the V.A. Any thing you get is purely voluntary and any group could serve its best interests

In most of the smaller places I've been the Negro veteran does not know what is available or how to go about getting information. They are just lost. It bucked up their spirits so much just to talk to me. Think what a man with official connections can do to bolster the hopes of these men. I was a representative of a private citizens group and could only impart knowledge of bulletins and releases whereas (Here the secretary brought the report of Albright's visit to V.A. office, 105 Pryor St.)

Mr Slaton read the letter which came from an asst. to the manager V. Owen. The letter said among other things that Albright had been treated as a gentleman (as if this had been ordered) and as a result of this Albright was so impressed that he would hold Ga up for the rest of the nation to look upon as a criterion.

It was brought out more fully that a man from Washington could no more understand our problems than one from Siam and that we would prefer a local citizen attached to the V.A. at the Regional level and more jobs of clerical and nature for Negroes.

Mr Slaton hemmed and hawed about it was the state offices (Vaux Owen, Mgr) duty to take on some Negroes as contact representatives and training officers, and tried to appear pensive about the possibility of a Negro advisor in his ~~[illegible]~~ office.

Although we plan a visit to Owens' office we relentlessly pushed for some employee in the Marietta office. Latest figures are

1710 person work in this office of V.A.

NOT 1 NEGRO is employed professionally

Field Agent

Interview with John M. Slaton, Deputy Administrator
Veterans Administration

I Introduction: Robert Thompson, Atlanta Urban League; Jacob Henderson, Atlanta Urban League; Nelson Jackson, National Urban League; Horace Bohannon, Southern Regional Council.

II Question #1: (about use of Negro professional personnel in VA)
A. (Mr. Slaton) Announces opening of A. U. Guidance Center Sept. 16, 1946.

Question: (about regions outside Atlanta)
A. This question is now being studied by V. A. to ascertain where other centers, contact offices can be opened which will use Negro personnel. Something about overloading the pendulum.

Question:- How can you hope to get true picture if some Negroes don't help to make the (above) study?
A. (Slaton) I hadn't given it much thought.

Question: Mr. Slaton, we are trying to tell that Negroes left this State to serve in the armed forces in a ratio with whites of one to three. He returns to find the jobs in the VA are not being given in a ration of even one to ten. I daresay that this particular area of yours (S. C., Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama, and Florida) has more Negroes than any other and yet you don't have a race relations advisor.
A. Well, now we do have Mr. Albright who was here just last week (busses secretary for a report on Albright's visit), and with groups like the Urban League making regular reports, I can keep pretty well abreast of what's going on.

Question: But don't you see that is just what we are driving at. No Negro has any official capacity in the VA. Anything you get is purely voluntary, and any group could serve its best interests. In most of the smaller places I've been the Negro veteran does not know what is available or how to go about getting information. They are just lost. It bucked up their spirits so much just to talk to me. Think what a man with official connections can do to bolster the hopes of these men. I was a representative of a private citizens group and could only impart knowledge of bulletins and releases whereas ———

(Here the secretary brought the report of Albright's visit to the VA Office, 105 Pryor St.)

Mr. Slaton read the letter which came from an assistant to the Manager V. Owen. The letter said among other things that Albright had been treated as a gentleman (as if this had been ordered) and as a result of this, Albright was so impressed that he would hold Georgia up for the rest of the nation to look upon as a criterion.

It was brought out more fully that a man from Washington could no more understand our problems than one from Siam and that we would prefer a local citizen attached to the VA at the Regional Level and more jobs of clerical and professional nature for Negroes.

Mr. Slaton hemmed and hawed about it was the State Office's (Vaux Owen, Mgr.) duty to take on some Negroes as contact representatives and training officers, and tried to appear pensive about the possibility of a Negro advisor in his office.

Although we plan a visit to Owen's office, we relentlessly pushed for some employee in the Marietta office. Latest figures are

1710 persons work in this office of VA.

<u>NOT ONE NEGRO</u> is employed professionally.

1950 Jackson Avenue,
New Orleans 13, Louisiana,
May 10, 1946

Mr. George S. Mitchell
Room 432
63 Auburn Ave., N.E.,
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

Enclosed herewith is a detailed report of my trip to St. Tammany Parish. My total employment was two and a half days covering Slidell, Lacombe and the Parish Seat in Covington, Louisiana.

Slidell was my first objective in St. Tammany Parish because of the number of Negro veterans listed and also it was the first town encountered in the parish. I immediately went to the U.S. Employment Agency to locate the Service Officer and to get information relative to veterans in the community. A Miss Lillian in the office informed me that the parish Service Officer was Mr. Edward Tujack and was located in the Courthouse Bldg in Covington. His day in Slidell was Wednesday except by appointments. Miss Lillian informed me that quite a number of Negro Veternas were receiving unemployment compensation. The exact number receiving it was not available.

Leaving that office I made personal contacts with several veterans on the streets. They knew nothing about a Service Officer and very little about the benefits they are entitled to receive as veterans. They were eager to learn about their benefits and I informed them that they had a Service Officer in Covington that would be glad to give them information regarding "on the farm and on the job training". I urged them to keep their ears open about a meeting in a day or so. On or two of the veterans named several influential citizens that I might see that would assist me.

I contacted Mr. Brooks, principal of the Slidell Colored High School. He is an agriculture man and heads that department for the Negroes in that parish. Mr. Brooks although a bit skeptical of my objective was desirous of working toward forming a Citizen Committee. He suggested that I contact Rev. Peters to head such a committee because he would be leving town in a few weeks and would be gone until September. Mr. Brooks wanted to know if I had obtained right of way from the mayor. I informed him that I didn't need his permission but if it would put his mind at ease I would get get it. He appeared to be afraid of the repercussions such a committee and meeting would bring about.

Rev. Scholastic Peters is a very energetic individual and was more than glad to take part in such a program that was timely needed. He consented to go along to see the mayor. The mayor happened to be sleeping so we promised to return. Rev. Peters and I motored to Covington to see the Service Officer but to no avail because he was out of town. Returning, we stopped in Lacombe where I talked with several of the veterans and asked them to meet us in Slidell Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in the High School. I also talked to Mr. Ducre, a grocer who was more than willing to do his part for the veterans in Lacombe and would get the word around about the meeting in Slidell. Most of the veterans thought that they had to go to New Orleans regarding their benefits.

Returning to Slidell, I contacted Mr. Daniels, a grocer who for 28 years has operated a successful small business. He stated his interest and his regret in not being able to attend the meeting Tuesday but would be glad to serve on the committee. He stated that veterans knew little about "on the farm and on the job training" and he thought now was the time for them to get busy while individuals are interested in them.

Rev. Peters and I returned to Covington to make another attempt in contacting the Service Officer. Mr. Tujack, the Service Officer (white) was in his office. I explained my mission and asked his cooperation. This he gave without hesitation and proceeded to tell me a few facts about the parish. He stated the Negro veterans in Civington were aware of his presence and that he had sent several to trade schools in Tyler, Texas and Jackson, Mississippi. He also stated that he had just placed two Negro veterans with a shoe making concern for "on the job training". I asked about "on the farm training" and he said St. Tammany Parish was not much of a farming parish and that accounted for few veterans inquiring. More asked about the educational benefits and that he knew for a fact several that had to return from Southern University because of no available space. His opinion of the veterans both white and colored is "they are making a racket out of getting $20.00 a week and as soon as they have received 52 payments they would inquire about the other benefits". He cited a case of two white vets that wanted to know of other benefits and that they didn't want to be signed up then because they were getting $20.00 a week but would come back later. I asked him if he would meet with a group of Negro vets and explain to them "on the farm and on the job training" as found in Public Law 346. He accepted the invitation for Tuesday at 8:00 p.m. in Slidell.

Before returning to New Orleans, I decided to make another attempt to see the mayor of Slidell. This time the mayor was out and his whereabouts not known.

Tuesday morning at 6:30 I departed for Covington to make contact with the veterans and citizens. After talking to several veterans I found that they knew about the presence of a Service Officer but didn't know about "on the farm and on the job training". They were all drawing unemployment compensation and the Service Officer's office is next to the U.S. Employment office, therefore, they couldn't help but see him when they went up to sign. I asked one of the veterans about leading citizens and their location. He decided he would go with me to point them out. There are no Negro doctors, dentists nor lawyers in the town. He took me to see Prof. J.A. Harrison, principal of the colored school in Covington. I explained my task to Mr. Harrison and he was much in accord with the program. He stated he could get a group together that night but promised to get one for Monday, May 13th. Veterans in Covington knew considerably more about the Service Officer than did those in Lacomce and Slidell. I asked Mr. Harrison about other citizens and he stated it would be hard to contact them in the day because they were "working people".

Returning to the Courthouse, I saw Mr. Tujack to make sure that he would be at the meeting that night in Slidell. I also stopped in Lacombe to see if the veterans knew about the meeting and found that they did and would be there in large numbers.

Back in Slidell I called on Rev. Peters to get him to accompany me to see the mayor. This time we found the mayor shaving but waited for him. Mayor Fritchie was much in accord with my program and assured me that 95 percent of

the citizens both "black and white" would cooperate. He stated he wouldn't be able to attend the meeting because of a council meeting but would keep in touch with the committee and would give them all the help needed. Mayor Fritchie undoubtedly took me for a disciple of Alonzo Willis when he stated" you must have read the editorial by a Negro editor. He is really giving the Negroes some good advice. We have an extract of his article in our St. Tammany Informer. We may have to go North and bring back the Negroes". Hearing this I immediately thanked the mayor for his cooperation and departed. I wanted to see that article so I went by the drug store and bought an Informer. That article was a hint to Negroes of St. Tammany Parish and asked that they take heed.

Veterans started gathering at 7:15 p.m. and at 7:30 we started the meeting with a prayer by Rev. Peters and the principal of the high School introduced me to the group. I explained to them about the Service Officer and his duty and willingness to help them. I also urged them to ask questions about their benefits and particularly about "on the farm and on the job training". Rev. Peters was selected by the group as chairman and he in turn appointed Rev. Fields, Mr. Brooks and Mr. Daniels to work with him on the Citizen Committee. Mr. Tujack, Service Officer appeared at8:00 and immediately explained "on the farm and on the job training". The Citizen Committee was introduced to Mr. Tujack and he was asked to cooperate with the committee to which he consented.

Wednesday morning I went back to Covington to inform Mr. Harrison that Mr. Tujack the Service Officer would not be able to attend the meeting Monday night but would be available on the 15th. Mr. Harrison was out of town so I left word that I would drop him a line explaining my return.

My trip to St. Tammany Parish was quite extensive and it is my belief that the entire parish has awaken to the fact that a Service Officer is near; that "on the farm and on the job training" is available; and that committees will be able to get more for Negro veterans as well as for the citizens in the parish.

Enclosed is a list of individuals contacted, their addresses, comments and etc. The individuals in Slidell can be reached by writing to General Delivery, Slidell, La. Also enclosed is my expense account for two and a half days.

Trusting this report meets with your approval, I remain,

Respectfully yours,

WESLEY R. BRAZIER

NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF COMMUNITY LEADERS CONTACTED - NOTES AND ATTITUDES OF SAME

MR. EDWARD TUJACK (white) Service Officer, Courthouse Bldg., Covington, La.

1. Very cooperative; willing to assist the veterans; agreed to talk to a group of veterans and citizens in Slidell.
2. "Veterans are making a racket out of getting $20.00 a week and as soon as they have received 52 payments they will inquire about other benefits".

MR. J. BROOKS, Principal of Slidell Colored High School, Slidell, La.

1. Was more than glad to work on a committee to assist veterans after learning that the mayor had given his approval for such a meeting.
2. "Service Officer has been to my school to explain to veterans their benefits. We have two veterans in school at the present time".

MAYOR FRITCHIE (white) Mayor of Slidell, Courthouse Bldg., Slidell, La.

1. Gave his "stamp of approval" for the forming of a citizens committee and was very glad something was being done to keep the Negro veterans from going North.
2. Assured me that 95 percent of the citizens of Slidell would be more than glad to cooperate with me in making known to veterans the Service Officer. "I want peace and harmony between the two groups".

REV. SCHOLASTIC PETERS, Minister, Slidell, La.

1. Put forth quite a bit of effort to help me form a committee as well as informing veterans about a metting.
2. Will work as chairman of the committee and feels that something else will materialize from such a valuable committee. "We have needed such a committee here for the longest".

MR. J. A. HARRISON, Principal of Colored School, Box 463, Ph 433, Covington, La.

1. More than willing to assist in making known to veterans the whereabouts of the Service Officer.
2. Will organize a committee for such a purpose and other purposes.

MR. DUCRE, Grocer, Lacombe, La.

1. Will work with committee in Slidell. Was glad something was being done to "show veterans they are sleeping on their rights".

MR. DANIELS- Grocer, Slidell, La.

1. Very influential and cooperative. Thought such a program was timely and would"do all in my power to help the veterans. Would assist the committee at all times.

1950 Jackson Avenue,
New Orleans 13, La.,
May 17, 1946

Mr. George S. Mitchell
Room 432
63 Auburn Ave., N.E.,
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

Enclosed is a report of my work in Washington Parish. My total employment was three days in Franklinton and Bogalusa, Louisiana. (May 13-15)

Before going to Washington Parish, I sent letters to Mr. F.E. Dyson and Rev. F.R. Butler informing them that I would be there and would like to talk to a group of veterans and citizens Monday, May 13, 1946.

I met Rev. Butler and explained the nature of my work and immediately he stated he would be glad to help me put such a program over. He went with me to the Courthouse building where I met Mr. Fuhrmann, Service Officer for Washington Parish. Mr. Fuhrmann stated that he had on several occasions made little talks to veterans in Franklinton explaining their benefits and that half of them were in his office the next day to make applications for "on the job training and on the farm training". He was not able to give the exact number of veterans that had applied because he had no follow-up system after applications were made. It was understood that quite a few veterans were taking advantage of "on the farm and on the job training". Mr. Furhman consented to talk to a group of veterans that night and also to work with a group of citizens in making his whereabouts known.

In the next office I met the Mayor of Franklinton. Mr. Bickham assured me that he was in favor of seeing to it that more veterans are informed and that he would work with a group to put the program over. He stated that he would like to see more veterans go into dairying because it is needed at this time. I explained to him that the committee there would be able to talk to the veterans about dairying but that I would be stepping out of bounds to do so.

Leaving the mayor's office, I rode around the town and contacted a number of veterans. I found out that they were aware of the Service Officer's presence and also knew about their benefits. Two of the veterans contacted were on the waiting list for "on the job training". From the veterans I learned of Mr. T.W. Barker, Supervisor of Negro Education; Mr. Butler, Farm Demonstration Supervisor; Mr. M. Amacker, acting Supervisor for on the farm training and Mr. Dyson, Manager of Farm Credit Union.

I contacted Mr. Barker and found him interested in the program and he saw the need for a Citizens Committee. He assured me of a good meeting that night and suggested that I meet Mr. Amacker who is interested in on the farm training. Mr. Amacker was a bit hesitant in the beginning because his position had not been confirmed. He feared the superintendent would get the wrong impression in that he was taking too much for granted. Mr. Amacker told me about a veterans club that had been formed and that he was on the advisory committee. This club meets bi-monthly and that they had heard a talk from Mr. Fuhrmann a few weeks ago.

Mr. Amacker introduced me to Mr. F.E. Dyson who is manager of the Farm Credit Union for the parish. Mr. Dyson is a World War I veteran and was greatly

interested in all veterans. He explained the workings of his union and also the fact that they had made loans to veterans that wouldn't stand a chance with the bank. He stated that he would be glad to work with a committee to inform the veterans and to continue the program.

After making a few other inquiries I motored to Bogalusa to arrange for a meeting Tuesday night. At the Y.M.C.A., I met Mr. Reeves, Asst. Secretary who after learning of my mission made a few telephone calls to interested citizens of the town. Mr. Reeves introduced me to Mr. Tucker who is a funeral director. Mr. Tucker is also Chairman of the Board of Directors at the "Y". Together we went over to Central High School and I was introduced to Mr. Jordan, principal of the school and also Mr. Crump a school teacher. Mr. Tucker then took me over to his place where he showed me a list of names that included all the veterans in Washington Parish. He explained that they were sending 90 days honorary membership cards to veterans and that they were in close touch with them. He saw the need for a committee but he didn't want to limit their work to "on the farm and on the job training". I explained to him that his committee didn't have to limit their work but to see that the veteran know the whereabouts of the Service Officer. Mr. Tucker, Mr. Crump and Mr. Jordan stated they would get busy and have a meeting for me the next night.

I returned to Franklinton for the meeting at 8:30 p.m. I met Mr. Butler who was to show a health picture after the meeting. Mr. Butler in his work comes in contact with quite a number of veterans and thought that his working with a committee would be of invaluable service.

The committee in Franklinton is headed by Mr. T.W. Barker. Others on the committee are F.E. Dyson, T.J. Butler, M. Amacker, Rev. Butler and Talmadge Reeves. Mr. Barker asked that I return when they officially confirm Mr. Amacker's appointment at which time there will be a large gathering and my presence would mean so much to the veterans. Late that night I returned to Bogalusa to attend a church affair and to spread the word about a meeting there Tuesday night.

Tuesday morning, I went over to see Mr. Fuhrmann about the veterans in Bogalusa. He wanted to attend the meeting that night but wanted to know the time because he had to talk at an American Legion meetingalso. I told him that I would contact him later because I didn't know the exact time. I went over to talk to Mr. Tucker about the time of the meeting and learned that he would rather not have Mr. Fuhrmann at the first meeting because some little thing might be said by him that would disrupt their plans. He called Mr. Fuhrmann and explained that they would have him over to another meeting since he would be rushed.

Mr. Crump felt this an opportunity to "kill two birds with one stone". He had spoken to a Mr. Cohen about getting a chapter of the American Legion for Negroes. He was promised that in the very near future a man from New Orleans would come to organize an auxillary and later a chapter. Our meeting would give them a chance to inform the veterans of the Service Officer's presence and to prime them for the future auxillary to be formed.

The meeting that night was successful although the attendance was small. Inclemency of the weather accounted for a poor showing. Mr. Crump was elected chairman with power to appoint other members. Those appointed were B.J. Tucker, J. Jordan. R. Reeves and Dr. L.M. Verdum.

Wednesday, I contacted Mr. Crump at the school to be sure that he would get the committee together in the very near future and see that the veterans are informed of the Service Officer's whereabouts. He stated his committee would meet this week and plan for a future meeting of all veterans in Bogalusa. At that time he would like for me to return and speak to the veterans and that they would have the Service Officer to explain a number of things to the veterans. I later contacted the committee members to see what they were thinking after the meeting. They were all in accord with what happened at the meeting and stated they would get busy with the chairman and put the program over.

I found Washington Parish pretty well organized. The veterans knew about their Service Officer and also a great deal about their benefits. I would suggest that letters from the Regional Office be sent to chairmans and committee members in Franklinton and Bogalusa to keep posted on progress being made.

Enclosed is a list of individuals contacted, their addresses, comments and etc. They can be reached by writing general delivery to Franklinton and Bogalusa, Louisiana.

Trusting this report meets with your approval, I remain,

Respectfully yours,

Wesley R. Brazier

WESLEY R. BRAZIER

NAMES AND ADDRESS OF COMMUNITY LEADERS CONTACTED - NOTES AND ATTITUDES OF SAME

MR. E.L. FUHRMANN (white) Service Officer, Courthouse Bldg. Franklinton, La.
Is willing to assist in getting the word around to more veterans about his presence. "Quite a few Negro veterans have made application for "on the farm and on the job training" but I don't know the exact number".

Mr. M. Bickham, Mayor, (white) Courthouse Bldg., Franklinton, La.
Thought well of the program and advised that more Negro veterans go into dairying. "Dairying is one thing the Negro can be equal to other races".

Rev. F.R.Butler, Minister, P.O. Box 127, Franklinton, La.
Willing to work with committee to do anything that will help the Negro veteran. More than glad to spread the word from the pulpit.

Mr. F.E. Dyson, Mgr. Farm Credit Union, Franklinton, La.
Enthusiastic, cooperative and willing to support the program. "We have made loans to veterans who wouldn't stand a chance with the bank.

Mr. T.W.Barker, Supervisor,Negro Education, Franklinton, La.
More than glad to contact veterans through his work and to work with the committee. "I see a great future for veterans in farming if they get busy".

Mr. T.J. Butler, Farm Demonstrator, Franklinton, La.
Glad to work with a program that is in line with his work. Will seek more information about benefits for veterans.

Mr. M. Amacker, Actg. Supervisor, Farm training, Franklinton, La.
A bit reluctant in the beginning because his job hadn't been confirmed but saw no harm in working to help veterans know where to go. "I am on the advisory committee with a veterans club we have here and I am sure that my affiliation with the committee will be of great help".

Mr. J.C. Crump, Teacher, Central High School, ~~XXXXXXXXXXX~~ Bogalusa, La.
"As a veteran of World War II, I will gladly accept the position as chairman of the Citizens Committee of Bogalusa and I will see to it that we know all necessary". Very cooperative and enthusiastic over possibilities of group.

Mr. B.J. Tucker, Funeral Director, Bogalusa, La.
"I am interested in seeing that the veterans know about the Service Officer and on the farm and job training but I don't want them limited to just that. I would like to see them given an opportunity to learn electricity, welding and other trades offered to white veterans.

Mr. J. Jordan, Principal, Central High School, Bogalusa, La.
"We have a few veterans enrolled in school and I would like to see trades pursued by veterans. I am also in favor of on the farm and on the job training". Willing to work with committee to make program a success.

Mr. Robert Reeves, Asst. Secretary, Y.M.C.A., Bogalusa, La.
Cooperative and willing to contact veterans who come to the Y.M.C.A. and to inform them about a Service Officer and "on the farm and job training".

Field agent

May 21, 1946

Mr. Wesley R. Brazier
1950 Jackson Avenue
New Orleans 13, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Brazier:

Many thanks for your two reports of May 10th and May 17th. The expense money is attached to this letter. I will send you the salary money as soon as we get back from Mr. Snowden's office the withholding tax blanks, which should be here in a day or two.

I am greatly pleasedwith what you did in St. Tammany Parish and Washington Parish. You went about your job with plan, dilligence, tact, and success. It is partiuulary fine that you took all that trouble to knit up a relationship with the Mayor in each parish town and that you make the work revolve around the parish service officer. I must leave it to you to stay in touch with your local committee, by mail or by an occasional visit.

I can see that if you amd Mr. Moses cover all the parishes in southern Louisiana in the way the two of you have been doing, a great deal of good will result.

Thank you for the carefully listed names and addresses of local leaders, and particularly for the remarks about each one whichaaee quite helpful.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

May 28, 1946

Mr. Wesley R. Brazier
1950 Jackson Avenue
New Orleans 13, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Brazier:

Many thanks for your good report of May 24th. I am sure things will go better in St. Charles Parish for your visit.

Enclosed is a check for $85.23.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

1950 Jackson Avenue,
New Orleans 13, La.,
May 24, 1946

Mr. George S. Mitchell
Room 432
63 Auburn Avenue, N.E.,
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

Enclosed is a report of my three-day trip to St. Charles Parish from Monday May 20-22, 1946. This report has been shorten a bit in body with other information given in remarks made by individuals contacted. The towns contacted in St. Charles Parish were: Ama, Luling, Hahnville, Killona, St. Rose, New Sarpy, Good Hope and Norco, Louisiana.

Mr. H. D. Keller, (white) is the Service Officer for St. Charles Parish and is located in the Courthouse building in Hahnville, Louisiana. Mr. Keller is an aged gentleman with a rather morbid personality. Not a single veteran (Negro) had been in to his office for information. According to Mr. Keller, his presence was known throughout the parish. He believes the veterans will come to see him after drawing a year of unemployment com ensation. He doubted if my mission would be of any help or value. On being asked to explain to the veterans some of their benefits Mr. Keller stated that he was no speaker but that I could send the veterans in to see him and he would talk to them in his office. He did give me a list, at my request, the names of influential Negro citizens of St. Charles Parish.

Throughout the entire parish I found that veterans as well as civilians did not know a Service Officer was present. Veterans in Hahnville, Luling, Norco, Ama, St. Rose and Killona thought that they had to go to New Orleans to get information regarding their benefits. St Charles parish is divided by the river. Ama, Luling, Hahnville, Killona, Parades on one side and St. Rose, New Sarpy, Good Hope, Boutte and Norco on the other side. Finding the parish so divided and un-informed, I made arrangements for a meeting of veterans and citizens for Monday, May 27, 1946 in Hahnville, La. I went from town to town contacting veterans and civilians informing them of the "on the farm and on the job training" and about the meeting in Hahnville on the 27th.

Quite a bit of work in organizating the veterans and citizens is needed in St. Charles parish. The Service Officer is not concerned with veterans knowing if he is present because of the work attached. The Service Officer was once a deputy sheriff of the parish and because of this the boys appeared to be reluctant when I mentioned that he was the Service Officer for the parish. In my going around from parish to parish I have found St. Charles parish to be the poorest organized relative to welfare of veterans. Because the parish is so un-informed, I have been asked to explain to the veterans some of the benefits they are entitled and other information that should be furnished by the Service Officer. I explained to them that it was not in my power to explain the benefits but to inform them of a Service Officer in their parish and to encourage "on the farm and on the job training". I plan to take this up with Dr. Snowden before the meeting to see if in an exceptional case something can't be done.

Enclosed also is my expense report for three days in St. Charles Parish.

Trusting this report meets with your approval, I remain,

Respectfully yours,

Wesley B. Bragg

WESLEY B. BRAGGER

NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF COMMUNITY LEADERS CONTACTED - NOTES AND ATTITUDES OF SAME

MR. H.D.KELLER (white) Service Officer, Courthouse Bldg., Hahnville, La.
Mr. Keller in all probablities has made no effort to inform the Negro veterans about his presence. "I am no speaker but just like the boys. You send them to my office and I'll talk to them".

MR. RAYMOND SMITH, Supervisor of Negro Education, Hahnville, La.
"Something needs to be done to inform veterans because they don't know where to go. I have been seeing Mr. Keller but I didn't know his duties. You can count on me doing all that I can to spread the word throughout the parish as I make my rounds of the schools". Mr. Smith expressed the desire of having one of the town officials present at the meeting in the event the Service Officer refuse to speak because "white people are funny and may get the wrong impression of the meeting".

MR. GEORGE SMITH-Grocer- Hahnville, La.
Mr. Smith is the brother of Raymond Smith. He is willing to assist but his duties around the store will not permit him taking an active part. He did promise to inform veterans that come to the store.

MR. RICHARD SMITH, President of Y.M.B.C., Hahnville, La.
"I understand your program thoroughly and I feel it is my duty to do everything possible to help the veterans. The Service Officer is not going to let people know why he is there and it is our duty to do it for our vets". Mr. Smith is no relation to the above named Smiths. Mr. Smith is going to have his Business Club act as a committee to inform veterans where to go for information.

MR. HENRY ROBOTTOM, Funeral Director & Postman, Hahnville, La.

very influential in the community over a long period of years. He eagerly consented to work with a group to hel encourage "on the farm and on the job training" and to tell veterans where to go to get the right information. "I have wondered why our boys had to go to New Orleans about their benefits when they didn't have to go there to be inducted".

Veterans ERNEST & Clayton Byrd and LEONARD SMITH, Hahnville, La.
These veterans are drawing unemployment compensation but would like to get more information about "on the job training" and trade school benefits. Smith said, "I thought we had to go to New Orleans to see about our benefits. I didn't know there is a Service Officer in this parish". Such ideas prevailed over the entire St. Charles parish.

MR. JOSEPH SCOTT-Grocer- ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ Killona, La.
"You can count on me having a good representation of veterans from here. After the meeting I am sure more fellows will take advantage of their benefits". Mr. Scott went on to state how our boys are left ignorant of what is going on.

MISS THOMPSON, Teacher- Killona, La.
Quite a few veterans have been to Miss Thompson to see if she knew anything that would be of help to them. She feels that she will be able to contact a number of veterans through their little sisters and brothers in school.

MR. CHARLES NATIS-Grocer- Luling, La.
Mr. Natis is an aged gentleman and is not able to do much getting around. He was impressed with the program and will inform the veterans that come around his store. His store is the hangout for a number of veterans.

MR. VALCOUR BERNABY-Grocer- Ama, La.
"I am willing to do my part in helping the veterans because I am a World

War I veteran and we didn't have anyone to take such an interest in us after the war. We have quite a few veterans here in Ama and I will tell them all so they will be at the meeting".

MR. A.J. VENNETTE, Grocer & Nite-Club Owner, St. Rose, La.
He was very cooperative and consented to contacting veterans. He introduced me to five veterans that were around his place. These vets were unaware of a Service Officer being present in the parish. Mr. Vennette will make announcements of the meeting during intervals at his dance Sunday night.

MR. SAM JOHNSON, Grocer- New Sarpy, La.
Mr. Johnson has three boys just out of the service and they were planning to go to New Orleans to see about taking advantage of some of their benefits. Mr. Johnson will urge the veterans of New Sarpy to attend the meeting in Hahnville Monday night.

MR. M. DARENSBOURG, Grocer- Norco, La.
Cooperative and willing to inform the veterans about the Service Officer's presence and to inform the veterans about the meeting in Hahnville. "The are many veterans here in Norco that should be informed".

MR. L.A. HAWKINS-Grocer- Norco, La.

Mr. Hawkins was greatly interested in "on the farm and on the job training". He felt that if more veterans took advantage of the above named benefits our veterans would become independent and self supporting. He also felt that community stores would be able to buy produce from veterans' farms. Mr. Hawkins stated that he would inform the veterans about the Service Officer and about the "on the farm and job training" and to attend the meeting to pick up more information.

Field Agent

June 4, 1946

Mr. Wesley R. Brazier
1950 Jackson Avenue
New Orleans 13, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Brazier:

Thank you for your letter of May 31st. You continue to do your job well.

If you have not read carefully Circular 99, which we sent you a couple of weeks ago, You should do so. It pulls the teeth of Circular 61. Maybe it would be wise to carry it with you and under favorable circumstances draw attention to it. You know, however, that I am reluctant to have our agents get a reputation of attempting to inform as to and interpret Veterans Administration regulations in detail.

It may be possible for you to work out job training under Mr. Marshall Lawrence through the diplomatic use of the language involved in Circular 99.

Generally speaking, I do not like to have the agents spend a great amount of time in working out individual cases, but it is sometimes extremely valuable to do so. Use your own judgment.

The St. Charles meeting sounds fine. You know that in general I hope we can have offical VA or other service officers present to give detailed information.

As to your suggestion about the column. It has been my experience that local papers do print one or another of the many columns about veterans benefits. I have also found that almost without exception these columns take up rather technical questions about claims and pensions. I have seen hardly any of them that push education and job training and farm training. That may be partly because the arrangements differ in each state, and the people who write the columns write for wide coverage. Therefore, I have resorted generally to asking the agents to urge that the local papers in the towns they visit do the job of digging out from service officers or state or local education people and businessmen the possibilities of job training and farm training in their neighborhoods. This would not give you a column, but it would give a town by town news story freshly done in that town and full of local names. Particularly, if such stories could be repeatedly carried in the same paper, they would give at least as much encouragement and knowledge as a column would give - I think more.

Here is a letter we have sent to all Southern Negro newspapers along this line. Whatever you can do in the places you go to encourage this or any local variations of it, please do.

Another good thing would be for you to work with Mr. Snowden and Mr. Moses and arrange for a committee to call on the head men in the Veterans Administration and the State Department of Education about education and training for Negro veterans. Then give that story to the press as to promises made. Presumably that story would be widely carried, particularly because it would be a Louisiana story.

I don't know when I shall be coming to New Orleans, but I hope it won't be more than a few weeks.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM;w

1950 Jackson Avenue,
New Orleans 13, La.,
May 31, 1946

Mr. George S. Mitchell
Room 432
63 Auburn Avenue, N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

Your letter of May 21st was received and I was glad to learn that my reports met with your approval. I am herewith submitting a report for three days employment in St. Charles and St. John The Baptist Parishes. The two parishes adjoin which made it convient for me to attend the meeting that was called for the 27th in Hahnville, La.

I contacted veterans and citizens in Edgard, Reserve, Mt.Airy, Terre Haute, Lucy, Garyville and La Place, Louisiana in St. John the Baptist Parish. This parish is also divided by the river as is St. Charles parish but the veterans in the former parish are more informed about "on the farm and job training" and their benefits than are the veterans in the latter parish.

Mr. L.P. Barrios (white) is the Service Officer for St. John the Baptist parish. He appeared very cooperative in all respects. He stated that fifteen veterans have been in to talk to him about "on the farm training" and two applications are now waiting to be approved. He thought that our program was needed in the parish because the veterans need encouragement. There is no "on the farm training in the parish at the present time. Mr. Barrios mentioned several flaws in the benefits under Public Law 346 and that he is going to take them up with the Veterans' Representative in New Orleans at a meeting Saturday. He said that veterans have applied for a certain trade training but Labor Unions will not consent because they are not members and will not give them cards. He also talked about a clause in Circular 61 which requires the employer to hire the veterans after they have completed their training. This clause is preventing the veterans from getting the training and he felt that they can go elsewhere for employment after getting the training. Mr. Barrios had lined up a colored mechanic to train veterans in "on the job training"but when the individual saw the clause that he was to hire the veterans after completion,he would not accept the offer. This garage owner and mechanic is Mr. Marshal Lawrence. Mr. Barrios stated that he has put forth a great deal of effort to inform the veterans of his presence and of their benefits. He suggested that I see Mr. J.O. Montegut, Superintendent of School Board in Reserve,because he is interested in "on the farm training" and also to see Mr. Brou in Edgard, La.

After waiting two hours to see Mr. Montegut, I was greeted with "Well boy, what's your trouble?" I explained to him my "trouble" and he suggested that I see Mr. Becnel who is the Vocational Agriculture Supervisor because he didn't have time to discuss the subject. He was kind enough to have his secretary phone Mr. Becnel to come over andtalk to me.

Mr. Albert T. Becnel (white) was a bit reluctant in the beginning but came around nicely. He was a Major in the service and stated that the veterans

know little about their benefits and this was because they weren't informed by the Service Officer. He said that he knew little about his benefits and went on to state how little counselling a veteran is given in the Separation Centers. He appeared bitter toward the Service Officer and made remarks that he wouldn't want to be mentioned because of his affilation with the School Board. He stated that the Service Officer isn't doing his job because he has a number of other jobs like insurance, politics & etc. "Too much politics is hurting the parish". I asked him if they would place a supervisor over the veterans for farm training and he stated that he would be one of the supervisors and others would be put on. Mr. Becnel wanted me to get a few colored veterans to start because he was sure that once they got under way the white veterans would do the same.

Mr. Brou, Farm agent in Edgard, is a typical example of the white people I come in contact with in various parishes. He did not invite me in his office and asked me as did Mr. Montegut "what is your trouble?". He was very evasive and told me that I would have to see someone else because he didn't know much about the program.

I contacted a veteran in Reserve by the name of Frank Lapeyrolerie who has been to the Service Officer to see about "on the farm training". He was told to see if he could locate farm equipment and then report back. He tried to find the equipment in various parishes but to no avail. He stated that the Service Officer has done all but make the boys apply for their benefits and that it wasn't his fault if the veterans failed to come in. This was contradictory to what Mr. Becnel said about the Service Officer. Lapeyrolerie is deeply interested in farming and stated that he was going to keep trying until he found the necessary equipment.

I later contacted Mr. Aubry Lands who is the principal of the Colored High School. He was very cooperative and is the first principal who was willing to work with a committee to encourage the veterans about "on the farm and job training" without going to see the "white man" first. Mr. Lands took me around to meet others he thought would be interested in my program. He went to see Mr. Marshall Lawrence who is confined to bed because of a recent operation.. He informed me of his case about "on the job training" that had been explained to me by Mr. Barrios. He said that the Veterans Representative explained that he could take veterans and hire them later or that he would take only veterans under Public Law 16. He now has one veteran being trained under Public Law 16. Mr. Lawrence would like to open a trade school because the veterans don't want to go away from home to be trained. He is to take this up with the Service Officer as soon as he can get around. He consented to work with a committee for the benefit of the veterans.

Leaving Mr. Lawrence I went over and met Mr. Henry Harris who is a shoemaker. I talked to him about "on the job training" and the possibility of getting a few veterans in his place of business. He was much in favor of such a plan and said that a couple of veterans had been to see him about learning the trade but had not returned. I suggested that he see the Service Officer and have his place approved for "on the job training".

The called meeting of St. Charles parish veterans was held in Hahnville and was a big success. Over seventy-five veterans were present. In my talk, I encouraged "on the farm and job training" and pointed out the advantages in such a training. Veterans asked questions about other benefits that I answered and suggested that they contact their Service Officer for detailed information. I had received permission from Dr. Snowden to discuss other benefits because the vets

in this parish were almost totally un-informed due to their Service Officer not making his presence known. The Y.M.B.C. headed by Mr. R. Smith took the responsibility of"fronting" for the veterans in the future and to encourage "on the farm and job training". They plan to get the names and addresses of all discharged veterans in the parish and send them a card for a future meeting at which time they plan encouraging each veteran to see their Service Officer.

It has been my experience in getting around various parishes that much can be done through the parish weekly paper. I would suggest getting a competent person to write weekly articles explaining benefits for veterans. Quite a few veterans read the parish paper and not the other localty papers. I am aware that this is the Service Officer's job but they are not doing it. I would also like to suggest that in writing this article a space be left blank for the editor to insert the name of the Service Officer and his location in the respective parishes. I would appreciate hearing from you regarding the possibilities of such a move.

There is a definite need for Negro Service Officers in all the parishes I have been. Negro veterans feel free to discuss plans about their future because they know they will be treated as a human being is suppose to be treated. There is a definite fear in some of the veterans in seeing a white service officer. One cannot understand their problems until they have talked to these veterans. The veterans want to take advantage of their benefits but they are either shy or un-informed. I find it rather difficult to discuss problems that I have encountered through mail because of a number of reasons. I hope that in the near future I will have the opportunity to talk to you when you come to New Orleans.

Trusting that this report meets with your approval, I remain,

Respectfully yours,

Wesley R. Brazier

WESLEY R. BRAZIER

NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF COMMUNITY LEADERS CONTACTED - NOTES ABOUT THE SAME

Mr. L.P. Barrios, (white) Service Officer- Reserve, La.
Impressed me as being the type of Service Officer to help the veterans with their problems regardless of color. He believed that our program was needed in the parish and that he would do more canvassing to inform veterans he's there

Mr. J.O. Montegut, (white) Superintendent of Schools, Reserve, La.
Greeted me with "Well boy, what's your trouble?". Was not the least bit interested in talking to me but siggested that I see the Voc Agri Supervisor

Mr. Brou, (white) Farm Agent, Courthouse Bldg., Edgard, La.
"What's your trouble" were the first words spoken by Brou. He was not willing to discuss anything with me but suggested that I see someone else. I informed him that he was suggested by the Service Officer.

Mr. Albert T. Becnel, (white) Voc Agri Supervisor, Reserve, La.
Cooperated with me in giving information about "on the farm training" and also stated that he wished that I could do something to make the Service Officer do his job. Not a single veterans has been sent to him for farm training.

Mr. Aubry Lands, Principal Colored High School, Reserve, La.
Very cooperative. Went around with me to point out interested citizens who are interested in the boys taking advantage of "on the farm and job training". He stated that he would get a committee to work with the veterans and see that all veterans are contacted and informed about the Service Officer.

Mr. Marshall Lawrence, Mechanic, Reserve, La.
He is on the Police Jury in Reserve and is thought well of by the white citizens He is now training one veteran under Public Law 16 but would like to start a auto mechanic training school. He refused to take veterans for "on the job training" because he couldn't afford to hire them after they have been trained.

Mr. Frank Lapeyrolerie, Veteran, Reserve, La.
Has inquired about on the farm training and was sent to locate farm equipment. He stated that the Service Officer has been around to various gatherings to inform the veterans about their benefits and that he is a nice fellow to talk to about your benefits.

Mr. Henry Harris, Shoemaker, Reserve, La.
He was interested in taking a few veterans for "on the job training and said two had contacted him about receiving the training. He was advised to talk to the Service Officer to get his place certified for veteran training.

The following men had no comments to make other than they would help to spread the word about "on the farm and job training" and to see that all the veterans in their community are informed about the Service Officer;

Mr. Edward Creasy- La Place, La.
Mr. Paul Duracelay - Garyville, La.
Mr. Wilbert Sorapura - Lucy, La.
Mr. F.M. Dinvaut- Edgard, La.
Mr. Irving Fiffi - Edgard, La.

June 11, 1946

Mr. Wesley R. Brazier
1950 Jackson Avenue
New Orleans 13, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Brazier:

Thank you for your letter of the 7th.

You have been into an interesting situation. You will have to follow up to see that the various people whom you have asked to do things are going ahead and do them.

It is of course all right to send in the expense accounts when you do not find it possible to get in touch with Mr. Snowden.

In Mr. Moses' last report he asked me to tell him something about the relative security of this work. I wrote to him as follows:

> "In my conversation with Mr. Snowden we talked in terms of you and Mr. Brazier traveling out to most or all of the parishes in South Louisiana. The idea was that you would fit the work in with your college work.
>
> "The northern part of Louisiana from Baton Rouge on up has been fairly well worked by Mr. January.
>
> "I don't suppose it will take more than another couple of months of these trips, a day or two a week, for the two of you to get over nearly all the parishes in the southern part of the State. Therefore, I would expect this job to run out at the end of July."

I should think the two of you could get over the lower part of the State by the end of July.

If this is a bad guess from this distance, let me know.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Field agent

Field Agent

June 11, 1946

Mr. Wesley R. Brazier
1950 Jackson Avenue
New Orleans 13, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Brazier:

Thank you for your letter of the 7th.

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If this is a bad guess from this distance, let me know.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

1950 Jackson Avenue,
New Orleans 13, La.,
June 7, 1946

Mr. George S. Mitchell
Room 432
63 Auburn Ave., N.E.,
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

I am in receipt of your letter of June 4th. The suggestions given will be of tremendous help to me in the future. I had carefully read Circular 99 but knowing the policy of the Council, I would not commit myself to the Service Officer or the individuals in St. John Parish.

I will speak to Mr. Snowden and Mr. Moses relative to a meeting with the heads of Veterans Administration and the State Department of Education. A considerable amount of information should be uncovered and revealed at the conclusion of this meeting.

My report for June 3-5th covers St. Martin Parish. The towns contacted were St. Martinville, Parks, Cade and Breaux Bridge. In my contacts with people of the latter three pawns I was surprise to learn that the citizens were afraid to cooperate with me for the benefit of their veterans. They refused to give me their names and would in no way reveal information about what the veterans were doing in "on the farm and job training". The situation was much better in St. Martinville.

Mr. Henry Bonin (white) is the Service Officer for the parish and is located in the Courthouse Building in St. Martinville. He informed me that no Negro veterans were farming under the "on the farm training" program at the present time. The parish is predominately dependent on agriculture. He explained that 15 or 20 Negro veterans are drawing $100.00 a month readjustment pay for operating their own farms. He has advised them to report back at a later date and apply for "on the farm training". Mr. Bonin believes that quite a few Negro veterans will take advantage of the farm training because most of the veterans were inducted directly from the farms. He gladly consented to speak to a group of Negro veterans explaining "on the farm and job training" whenever we could arrange for such a meeting. At my request he gave me names of Negro citizens worthy of stimulating the program. Land is available for veterans to lease or buy and supervisors will be appointed to guide the veterans in "on the farm training".

Mr. Lester Journet is a successful Negro furniture dealer and undertaker. He was very cooperative and willing to assit in urging the veterans to inquire about "on the farm and job training". In the beginning he stated that the veterans weren't interested in anything but in the end he thought that they could be made to see the advantages in the training. Mr. Journet's nephew was not aware of the farm training and wanted to know more about it. I directed him to Mr. Bonin the Service Officer. From outside sources I was able to learn that the Journet family at one time were big farmers and made quite a profit in farming. It was not a hard matter for Mr. Journet to consent and highly indorse our timely program.

There are two colored priests in the parish whom I contacted. Father Rousseve

and Father Williams were very congenial and willing to assist in every way possible;from the altar down to personally contacting veterans and citizens. Father Rousseve (head of parish) in getting around the community has talked to quite a few veterans farming. These veterans were farming on their own and did not have a supervisor. I explained to the two Fathers that the Service Officer would be glad to talk to parish veterans at a called meeting and would explain the policy of the "on the farm and job training"program in furnishing a supervisor. Fathers Rousseve and Williams are to contact the veterans and citizens for a meeting and will notify the Service Officer to be present.

Mr. L. Benjamin, a druggist, was more than interested in working with a group to promote my program. He is a ward leader and stated that"if Father Williams is to work with the program then count on me because I like working with him. I can't talk for the others but I know about Father Williams and myself". Mr. Benjamin explained why the citizens in Parks, Cade and Breaux Bridge refused to cooperate with me. The incident in New Iberia sometime ago which caused a number of Negro professional men to be beaten and chased out of town and the present case of Willie Francis in St. Martinville and New Iberia have the Negroes afraid and skeptical of all programs advocated by a strange Negro. He told me "not to worry because Father Williams will be able to get them to do what is needed". Mr. Benjamin asked how the committee would go about getting all the veterans and I explained that he or the committee could get such a list from the Selective Service Board in the parish of all returned veterans and to explain to the Board the reason for wanting such a list for fear they get skeptical of their intentions. After getting such a list they would be able to drop each veteran a card informing him of the meeting. He was positive that he could contact every veteran in his ward and the other four ward leaders could do the same along with dropping cards to the veterans.

Leaving Mr. Benjamin, I went to see Rev. Dixon of the Methodist Church. He informed me that he would work with the committee but that the parish was predominately Catholic and it would be wise for Father Rousseve to head it. I explained to him that religion shouldn't be considered when it comes to helping the veterans learn more about his benefits. Also that since he was broad-minded, that he suggest that Father head the committee and since the parish was mainly Catholic. He agreed that more would be accomplished in such a case and that he would contact Father Rousseve and decide on a definite date for the meeting and announce it in his church. All the individuals contacted up to this point with the exception of Mr. Bonin are Negroes and Catholic.

Mr. Baptiste owns and operate a cafe and is non-sectarian. He consented to working with the committee and to personally contact veterans to check on their benefits and particularly "on the farm and job training". He stated that most of the veterans didn't know about their benefits and such a meeting would be a fine thing to prevent them from having excuses.

The veterans contacted in the parish did know about some of their benefits but knew very little about "on the farm and job training". They stated that the Service Officer is a good man to work with and that he would give you all the time needed in individual cases. Some of the veterans have been going to the adjoining parish because there is a branch of Veterans Administration in that parish and they felt quicker results would be obtained.

Enclosed is my expense account for three days employment. Also is the list of individuals contacted, their addresses, comments and etc.

Trusting this report meets with your approval, I remain,

Respectfully yours,

Wesley R. Brazier

WESLEY R. BRAZIER

NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF COMMUNITY LEADERS CONTACTED - REMARKS OF THE SAME

Mr. Henry Bonin (white) Service Officer, Courthouse Bldg., St.Martinville, La.
Very cooperative and willing to speak to a group of veterans at a called meeting. He thought that the program was needed and will encourage it.

Mr. Lester Journet, Furniture dealer and Undertaker, St. Martinville, La.
Mr. Journet assured me that he would be willing to work with a citizens committee for service to veterans. He was glad that some one was doing something to get the veterans off the streets.

Mr. Baptiste, Cafe owner, St. Martinville, La.
He was in favor of getting the veterans together once and for all because they have excuses why they don't take advantage of their benefits. He gladly consented to work with the committee and would personally contact veterans.

Fathers Rousseve and Williams, Colored Catholic Church, St.Martinville, La.
Both priests are Negroes and are willing to assist with "on the farm and job training". They felt that they would be able to get just about every veteran in the parish present for the meeting.

Rev. Dixon, Mallileu Methodist Church, St. Martinville, La.
He was willing to work with the committee but felt that Father Rousseve should head it because the parish is predominately Catholic and most of the veterans are Catholic. He would be glad to announce from his pulpit the date of the meeting and to contact veterans and urge them to be present.

Field Agent

June 19, 1946

Mr. Wesley R. Brazier
1950 Jackson Avenue
New Orleans 15, La.

Dear Mr. Brazier:

Re puzzling statement: When I talked with Mr. Snowden on one occasion, he told me he thought he could readily find a couple of men still hooked to Dillard who could do this job. I had gone on the easy supposition that that was what he had done. My apologies for not looking closely enough to discover in your training the reasons for your special abilities.

I do appreciate what you have been doing and am delighted that you and Mr. Moses will finish the job.

You might have a go with some of the officials at on-the-farm training for non-owners or non-renters. You know that it is technically available if they are to learn some specialized form of occupation. You may not be able tp prize it open, but you will accomplish some education of officials, and they might later on find ways to use what they learn.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

1950 Jackson Avenue,
New Orleans 13, La.,
June 14, 1946

Mr. George S. Mitchell
Room 432
63 Auburn Avenue, N.E.,
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

I am receipt of your letter of June 11th. There was a statement in your fourth paragraph that puzzled me so I thought that I would write to you regarding it.

You mentioned Mr. Moses asking "about the relative security of this work". I was under the impression that our job was only temporary and that it would terminate in a few months. I understood that much but the last sentence in your first quoted paragraph is what puzzled me. You stated "the idea was that you would fit the work in with your college work". I finished from Dillard University in 1938 and later received a Master Degree in Social Work from Atlanta University School of Social Work in Atlanta, Georgia.

I accepted the work with your Council because it was in my field of Social Work and because I was unable to leave the city due to the illness of my mother. It is possible for me to be away from the city for three days and in a radius of six hours travelling back to the city in the event I am needed here.

I thought that I would get a clear understanding of your above quotation because I am under the impression that you are under the same impression that I am doing this work in with college work.

Off hand, I would say that there are four or five more parishes in the southern section of Louisiana that must be covered. I agree with you that the work should be complete by the end of July and I think that it is possible to make a return trip to most of the parishes if not all of them.

I am hoping that my mother's condition will not change for the worse so that I will be able to complete my work. In the event conditions change, I will inform you so that Mr. Moses or someone else will be able to carry on where I am unable to do so.

It is really a pleasure to be working with the Southern Regional Council and the amount of good I am able to do for the people of my race is upper most in my mind. Thanks for the way in which you have received my reports. I hope that some good will come from the amount of time and effort I have put forth in the various parishes I have contacted.

Respectfully yours,

Wesley R. Brazier

WESLEY R. BRAZIER

1950 Jackson Avenue,
New Orleans 13, La.,
June 14, 1946

Mr. George S. Mitchell
Room 432
63 Auburn Avenue
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

Herewith submitted is my report of Iberia Parish for June 10th, 11th and 12th, which covers Rayne and New Iberia, Louisiana.

I stopped in Rayne to make contact with the Service Officer but learned that he is there on Wednesdays only. Before leaving Rayne, I made several contacts with veterans regarding "on the farm and job training". Most of the veterans stated that they weren't interested in farming but would like to get "on the job training". They cited several instances where they have tried to get with white establishments but were turned down. They were not particular about going elsewhere to get that training because they felt the subsistence money would not be enough in most places due to the high cost of living. The veterans are very much interested in learning auto mechanical work, plastering, shoe-repairing and many other trades. They have been in to talk to the Service Officer and were told that the parish had no authority to compel an employer to take veterans for "on the job training" but that they could use their influence to get the employer to consider them.

I talked to several influential Negro citizens but they were not willing to tell me their name nor were they willing to form a citizens committee to encourage veterans to inquire about "on the farm and job training". They explained that their veterans were able to inquire on their own and that the veterans were informed about their benefits before leaving the service. Two of the citizens suggested that I see the town officials when I entered New Iberia because they are "very peculiar". I asked them if they would cooperate with me if I got the consent of town officials and they said they would . I promised them I would return the next day to see them.

In New Iberia, I went to the City Hall to see the Mayor but found that he was out for the day. I talked to one of the officials and explained my program. He was very much in accord with it and stated that I should get back to see the Mayor because he felt that he would be interested. I wasn't able to get the name of that official.

Mr. J.W. Anges (white), is the Service Officer for the parish. I found him to be very cooperative and interested in the program. He stated that "there is no discrimination in this office. White and Negro veterans are treated just alike". He explained that they hadn't started the "on the farm training" for Negro veterans because of a need for an Agriculture instructor. He said that the program for white veterans started sometime ago and that they were hoping to get started with Negro veterans by next year. "Over thirty Negro veterans have made application for "on the farm training" but I would suggest that you see Mr. Williams who is in a better position to tell you the exact number". Mr. Williams is the County Agriculture Agent.

Mr. Anges stated that his office had been in operation ofr over fifteen years and that his uncle was in charge at that time. He was sure that most of the veterans in Iberia Parish knew about his presence. I inquired about on the job training and was told that Negro veterans weren't able to find a place that would take them in New Iberia. There are several Negro veterans farming on their own and drawing their compensation. Mr. Anges suggested that I talk to the citizens to encourage the veterans to come in and see about farming because it would give them a chance to find out how many agriculture instructors will be needed for the Negro veterans. He also wanted to know if I could tell them where they might locate an agriculture instructor. I told him that I didn't know of any off hand but that Southern University turn out a number of men capable to do the job.

Mr. Williams (white), County Agriculture Agent and Mr. C. Nero, assistant county agent (white) are located in the Courthouse Building. Mr. Williams was out at the time but Mr. Nero was very helpful in giving me information. He told me that the Superintendent of Education had talked to them before leaving for a vacation that they wanted to find an instructor and start the Negro veterans on farming. The obstacle facing most of the Negro veterans is the lack of land. He showed me eight applications from Negro veterans that are ready and waiting for someone to start instructing them. He also showed me about forty or more forms from white veterans who are getting the training. Mr. Nero also informed me that his office had received a list from the Selective Service Board of all veterans both white and colored and that they had sent letters to all of the veterans asking that they come in and see them. Most of the veterans came in and the majority of them did not want "on the farm training" but wanted "on the job training" or to return to school. He informed them that they would have to see the Service Officer because his office was only interested in farming. Mr. Nero had before him an application from a Negro veteran who had leased 130 acres from a farmer and was to received three-fourths and the farmer one-fourth. This vet is hiring a number of veterans to help him. He doubted seriously if this veteran would consent to sub-leasing 40 acres to another veteran because it would mean less profit for him. Very few of the veterans are able to get the 40 acres as required by the program but he felt that more land would be made availabe to the veterans at the end of this year.

Mr. Adrian Augustus is a colored photographer in the town. He was very interested in the program and thought that such a program was needed. He told me that I would not be able to get the support of the leading Negro citizens because they were afraid to work with anybody. Mr. Augustus is willing to do all in his power to encourage veterans to return to the farm but he doubted seriously getting a committee to contact veterans in the parish. He is a veteran of World War II and did not start his business from government loan because of the "red tape" attached. His business was started through a loan from the Farm Credit Union of which he is the founder. I asked him about seeing some of the men in the Credit union to see if they would help but he stated that those men had made a good name for themselves and that they would not be interested because of false interpretations of their intentions. He is to see the Service Officer and make arrangements from his talk as to the date for a meeting with the veterans.

Mr. J.B. Henderson a former school teacher was interested in the program and stated that he would be willing to promote the program in the few weeks he will be in the town. He plans to go back to school during the summer. He felt that most of the veterans were informed because the Service Officer along with the Agriculture County Agent and Superintendent of Education have been urging

veterans to take advantage of their benefits now. Mr. Henderson gave me the same impression as did Mr. Augustus in that the citizens were afraid to do any organizing.

Mr. Carlson is a prominent insurance man and has quite a bit of land. He explained to me his interest and stated that he would be glad to do all possible to help the veterans. "Just a week I leased 7 acres to a young veteran for farming. He had several other tracts of land and I guess he needed so much from me to make up for the difference". Mr. Carlson stated that in his work he is all around the parish and that he would be glad to pass the word on to the veterans about farming and to see the Service Officer.

It was my impression that the Service Officer and Agriculture County Agent have put forth a great deal of effort to contact veterans both white and colored. More veterans will apply for farm training after the program is set up for Negro veterans to farm.

There are no Negro veteran organizations in the parish. Inform Mr. Bonhanan that I will be glad to get the information for him whenever I run across such organizations. When I make another trip to Washington Parish I will be able to get such information because I do know of two in that parish.

Enclosed is my expense account for three days employment in Iberia Parish.

Trusting this report meets with your approval, I remain,

Respectfully yours,

Wesley R. Brazier

WESLEY R. BRAZIER

June 24, '46

Dear Mr. Brazier,

Thanks for your letter of June 21.

Crowley seemed a little harder to crack than most of them.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

check will be forwarded on June 27.

1950 Jackson Avenue,
New Orleans 13, La.,
June 21, 1946

Mr. George S. Mitchell
Room 432
63 Auburn Avenue, N.E.,
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

Enclosed is my report for June 17-19 along with my expense account for three days employment. This report covers Arcadia Parish.

The parish seat is in Crowley, Louisiana and it is there where the Service Officer spends most of his time. Acting as Service Officer in the absence of Mrs. Barnett is Mr. Hill. Mr. Hill informed me that he had not been in the office but a week and couldn't give me the exact information about the progress being made by veterans in that parish. He did tell me that very few veterans had applied for "on the farm training and on the job training". He tried to make an appointment with the Superintendent of Schools to discuss the plans for farm training but the superintendent was off on a vacation. Mr. Hill stated that he can't make too many plans because he is to be there for one month and after that another gentleman is to take his place. He did say that his job was to try and help the veterans pick out an occupation that would fit them for life and that he treated all veterans alike. He suggested that I go over and see Miss Vidrine of the School Board because he felt that she could give me more information about the farm training. Mr. Hill and Mrs. Barnett are both white.

Miss Vidrine is located in the School Board Building in Crowley. She informed me that at the present time there was no program for Negro veterans in farming but they were hoping to get one started in the near future. She did say that word had been passed that something is to be done but she knew very little about the program and thought that I should discuss it with the heads of the school board. Miss Vidrine is also white.

Mr. David May is principal of the Colored High School in Crowley. He was out of town but I was able to get information from his wife and to give her information to pass on to Mr. May when he returnes. Mrs. May stated that the veterans wanted to get "on the job training" but they didn't have any place in Arcadia parish where Negro veterans could be trained. She stated that in the schools she has talked to a number of veterans and they were desirious of learning a trade but they didn't want to leave the town. There are quite a number of veterans back in the high school trying to complete their work and then they plan to go and learn a technical trade. Mrs. May stated that her husband would be glad to work with the program to help the veterans learn more about their benefits and particularly "on the farm and job training".

Mr. Wallace Poullard is one of the Negro teachers in the High School in Crowley. He is an ex-G.I. and was very much interested in the farm and job program. He doubted seriously if many veterans would go into farming because of the monopoly in Crowley. The main produce is rice and that is pretty well tied up. He stated that the veterans there were having a hard way to go because of the treatment they get when they go to see the Service Officer. The same thing is

true when Negro veterans go to seek a job or get their unemployment compensation. The veterans are offered menial jobs from dishwashing to mowing lawns. If they don't take the jobs offered then they are not given compensation. To prove it to himself, Mr. Poullard went to the U.S.E.S. to apply for work after school closed and was offered a job as a porter with the bank. It so happened that the bank president knew Mr. Poullard and told him that he needed a man but he was sure that he didn't want that type of work when he is a school teacher. Mr. Poullard didn't return to the USES because he wasn't interested in getting the unemployment compensation. I spoke to him about forming a committee that would get in behind the veterans and to call a meeting and have the Service Officer speak to the veterans about their benefits. Mr. Poullard consented and went around with me to see other influential Negro citizens to help with the program.

Mr. Joseph Pete owns and operates a successful barber shop. I spoke to him about helping with the committee and the benefits in "on the farm and job training". He was very much in favor of helping. He stated that he had sent a veteran to New Orleans to attend barber school and that he was expecting him back in a couple of months to work with him in his shop. He stated that he would like to take a number of veterans in his place of business but that his space was limited. He stated that veterans don't want to farm in Arcardia parish because they will not be able to compete with the plantation owners and that they would only be able to produce rice and sell it in local markets.

Mr. Thomas is a successful Negro business man. He is quite influential in the community and is very much interested in veterans. Several veterans are working in his place of business. He has a filling station and garage along with a cafe, beer parlor and hotel. He felt pretty sure that the veterans would like to learn a few trades but they weren't able to get the proper information. I asked Mr. Thomas if he would liketo go over and meet the Service Officer and see if they couldn't work out some date when he would be able to come over and talk to the veterans. He stated that he would go over one day in the week when he has more time. He did consent to work with the committee to get the veterans together and to pass the owrd on.

Dr. Jospeh Mack was interested in the program. He stated that few of the veterans wanted to farm because they don't have the land and that they couldn't get it from white land owners. He stated that there are few colored farmers in that parish and the majority of the farmers are working for white farmers either as share croppers or by the day. He knew of one instance where a Negro veteran wanted to do a great deal of farming but found that he could not buy, lease or rent land from white land owners and few Negroes have enough land to share with someone else. He suggested that their committee try to encourage "on the job training" instead of farming. He suggested that I see Father McCormick(white) who is the pastor for the Catholic Church. Father McCormick was out of town but I left word with his house-keeper for him to contact Dr. Mack.

Trusting this report meets with your apporval, I remain,

Respectfully yours,

Wesley R. Brazier

WESLEY R. BRAZIER

1950 Jackson Avenue,
New Orleans 13, La.,
June 28, 1946

Mr. George S. Mitchell
Room 432
63 Auburn Avenue, N.E.,
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

Submitted herewith is my report for Jefferson Davis Parish which include Jennings, Elton, Mermentau; Midland and Estherwood, Louisiana. Also submitted is my expense account for June 24-26, 1946.

In Jennings, I made a futile attempt to see the Service Officer for Jefferson Davis Parish. I talked to Sheriff Buller regarding the activities of Negro veterans in the parish. He informed me that the "Negro veterans were not doing a thing but sitting down and waiting for easy money". He wasn't able to tell me anything about the "farm and job training but thought that very little of that was being done. Sheriff Buller is white.

I contacted Mayor John L. Conner (white) in Jennings. He was very cooperative and thought that I would be of tremendous help if the Negro veterans couldhear me explain the benefits available to them through the farm and job training. He stated that there was little if any farming going on by veterans in the parish. He stated that the "town or parish is mainly a rice and cotton growing place". Most of the farming is being done by old farmers and they weren't too willing to lease their land to veterans. He felt that the veterans could through the FSA get land and do well in farming. Highly indorsing the program, the Mayor thought it wise to give me a letter of introduction to the Service Officer and thought that I would be able to find him in Elton, Louisiana after having tried to reach him in the city.

Following the advice of Mayor Connor, I went over to see Judge Lestage (white) also in Jennings. The Judge was out of town and would be gone for three days. I talked to his secretary and explained my purpose and asked her to have the Judge contact Mayor Connor when he returns.

Another futile attempt was made in Elton, Louisiana to see the Parish Service Officer. The City Hall was locked tightly and citizens of the town explained to me that the Service Officer has a certain day there and that his day was on Thursday. I talked to several white citizens to see if they knew the whereabouts of the Service Officer and they gave me several places to go where he could be. At Dr. Fletcher's office (white) I learned that he was not in town and that I could try Mermentau or Midland, Louisiana. The remainder of that day I spent talking to Negro veterans about their swell opportunities for farming and job training.

Most of the veterans were eager to learn about the opportunities but it was the same old story that they didn't want to go away from home to take job training because they didn't think that they could get along on the little amount of money being given. They stated that they had tried to get with several firms in Elton but the white veterans were given preference by the firm owners. I explained to them that it was not in the power of the government to dictate to employers as to veterans employed for job training. I also told them that they could get equally as much if not more if they inquired about farming. They thought that farming was a monopoly and that as Negroes they wouldn't be able to compete with the large white farmers bacause the only thing that is in demand in their parish is rice and they would like to do more than grow rice. I left them with the thought that their Mayor would see to it that Negro veterans would get a fair break in farming and that the markets have no regard for color when there is a need for food commodities. I think a number of them are going to try and pool their resources and see the Service Officer about starting a large rice and cotton farm. In Midland, Mermentau and Estherwood the veterans thought the same way as did the veterans in Elton.

Again in Jennings the next day I tried to see the Service Officer. I talked to his secretary Miss Miller (white) who was able to give me the information I wanted. She stated that there was no "on the farm training" program going on in the Parish for white or colored but that they were planning to start one by September. I asked if she could tell me the number of Negro veterans applying for "on the job training" and she couldn't because their office makes no distinction in regard to color. There are several Negro veterans getting the readjustment pay for doing their own farming and she couldn't give the number receiving it. She stated that she would let Mr. James L. Arceneaux (white) Service Officer know that I have been there and to try to encourage the citizens to get the Negro veterans to go into farming and on the job training.

I am enclosing the introductory letter given me by Mayor Connor.

I still haven't been able to get information for Mr. Bonhannam regarding Negro veteran organizations because there aren't any in the places I have been in the past two or three weeks.

Trusting this report meets with your approval, I am,

Respectfully yours,

Wesley R. Brazier

WESLEY R. BRAZIER

JNO. L. CONNER,
MAYOR

ANTHONY SCHMITT,
FINANCE

DEWEY ROUTON
STREETS AND PARKS

CITY OF JENNINGS

JENNINGS, LOUISIANA

June 20, 1946

Mr. James Arceneaux
Jennings
Louisiana

Dear Sir:

This is to introduce, to you, Wesley Brazier, Atlanta, Georgia, who wishes to discuss with you matters concerning the colored veterans.

John L. Conner, Mayor

JLC:jpa

Mr. Buller (white) Sheriff, City Hall, Jennings, La.

Negro veterans were not doing a thing but sitting down and waiting for easy money". He didn't know too much about the activities of the Negro veterans but thought that someone should try to get them to take advantage of farming to keep them out of trouble.

JUDGE LESTAGE, (white) Jennings, La.

I wasn't able to get the name of his secretary but she can be contacted by writing to the Judge. He was out of town but the secretary assured me that she would inform the Judge and have him contact the Mayor when he returns to the city.

MISS MILLER (white) Secretary to Mr. James Arceneaux, Parish Service Officer, Jennings, La.

"The "on the farm training" program has not been started here in the parish as yet but we intend to start it by September". I asked her if the veterans were coming in inquiring about farming and on the job training and she replied that they were and that several of them were drawing readjustment pay for running their own farms but couldn't give the number because their office makes no distinction in regard to color.

Field Agent

July 2, 1946

MEMORANDUM TO: Wesley R. Brazier
FROM: George S. Mitchell

I need some information about training programs for Negro veterans. Please try to get it back to me by Monday, July 8th. Send it by wire if you have to.

What I want is your best guess as to the number of white veterans receiving respectively job training, institutional training, and farm training, and the number of Negro veterans receiving each, as of the end of June '46, in Louisiana.

Field Agent

July 9, 1946

Mr. Wesley R. Brazier
1950 Jackson Avenue
New Orleans 13, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Brazier:

Many thanks for your figures and for your letter of July 4th.

I quite agree with your work on the franchise, though that is only a part of our immediate concern.

You should know that I have let Mr. January stop work as of June 30th. He was engaged to come on for four months or so. I think he pretty well got over the northern part of the State.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

1950 Jackson Avenue,
New Orleans 13, La.,
July 4, 1946

Mr. George S. Mitchell
Room 432
63 Auburn Avenue, N.E.,
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

All of the parishes selected for my itenary have been contacted. Two parishes that I know off-hand that haven't been contacted are St. James and another one that we were told not to work. With the work rapidly drawing to a close, I decided to make return visits to parishes I have made initial visits. This week I returned to St. Tammany parish with the expectation of staying two days but I ran into an interesting situation that more or less caused me to stay three days. In order to return to all of the parishes by the end of this month I must limit my stay to two days at the most. After explaining the circumstance which caused me to stay over another day, I am sure that you will agree with me for my actions.

The veterans in St. Tammany parish are now taking advantage of the "on the farm and job training" along with those taking advantage of other benefits they are due. The Citizens Committee has been instrumental in keeping behind the veterans and by so doing more of the veterans have contacted men on the committee to get information about their benefits. The committee in turn suggested that the veteran see the Service Officer and was able to tell them how to locate the Service Officer.

Rev. S. Peters (colored) informed me that he was more than glad to get the information from the Southern Regional Council a week or so ago. He also stated that he was asked to comply with one or more requests and that he has followed as requested. Rev. Peters stated that he has been able to send more than a dozen veterans to see the Service Officer and was informed by the Service Officer that the Negro veterans in that parish were beginning to come in to file for benefits other than readjustment compensations. Several veterans from LaCombe were over to see the Service Officer about starting a much needed laundry in their town and the Service Officer is helping them to work out details for such a project. Rev. Peters informed me that Mayor Fritchie called him in to talk to him about getting his veterans together to register and to come to the polls and vote for city officials. Rev. Peters tried to get the veterans and other citizens to register but not a single individual would take heed to his advice. Never before have the Negroes voted in the parish and they were afraid of being intimidated after having registered and voted. It was this bit of information that caused me to stay over another day to see if I couldn't contact veterans individually and see what could be worked out to encourage them to register.

In Covington, I contacted Mrs. Harrison (colored) the wife of Prof. Harrison who at that time was out of town. Mrs. Harrison informed me that my initial visit there has been of tremendous help to the veterans in that they were awaken to the benefits due them and that they are trying to get land and machinery for farming. She stated that quite a number of veterans have been over to see Prof. Harrison regarding information on job and farm training. He was able to go over and see the Service Officer and inform the veterans who appeared to be reluctant about seeing the Service Officer. I informed Mrs. Harrison that I would write to her husband at a later date for more detailed information.

Mr. Tujack (white) Service Officer for the parish happens to be in New Orleans attending a Veterans Administration School. The Service Officer taking his place was not able to tell me about the Negro veterans and their requests for "on the farm and job training" but suggested that I come back next week at which time Mr. Tujack will have returned. I explained to him that I wouldn't be able to return because of my schedule but that I would drop him a line.

In Lacombe I talked to quite a few Negro veterans about their plans. I was able to learn that several of them have left town under Public Laws 346 & 16 for trade schools, on the job training and educational benefits. Most of the veterans stated that they had filed for entrance to school and that they had received their certificates of eligibility and were just waiting for school to open.

Back in Slidell I talked to qute a few veterans regarding their good opportunities to register and to vote. They were as Rev. Peters stated in that they wanted to know who would protect them when groups are formed to visit those Negroes who took part in an election. I was able to show them that their present mayor was trying to break the ice for them while he was in office and that they would get all the protection from the city officials needed. I also explained to them that they would be able to get more land for on the farm training from the city and also that other interested white citizens would open the way for them to take "on the job training" and remain in Slidell. They asked me to return and teach them how to fill out the cards for registering and after they learn they would teach the other people in the community. I promised them that I would be back sometime in August because my work called for me elsewhere until that time.

Enclosed you will find my expense account. I hope that I didn't over step my bounds by staying another day and taking an interest in the Negro veterans registering. I assure you my efforts in that line cleared the Council of having anything to do with my personal ambitions and desires.

Trusting this report meets with your approval, I remain,

Respectfully yours,

Wesley R. Brazier

WESLEY R. BRAZIER

1950 Jackson Avenue
New Orleans 13, La.,
July 18, 1946

Mr. George S. Mitchell
Room 432
63 Auburn Avenue, N.E.,
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

Enclosed is my weekly report for work covering St. Charles and St. John the Baptist parishes, along with my expense account for three days employment from July 15-17, 1946.

This was a return visit to the two parishes to see if any improvements have been made since my initial visit. I visited Hahnville, Ama, Luling, Killona, St. Rose, Norco, St. Rose and Good Hope in St. Charles parish.

I talked to Mr. Keller (white) Service Officer for the parish regarding progress made by Negro veterans relative to "on the farm and job training". He informed me that well over fifty colored veterans have been in to see him after my called meeting in Hahnville. None of the veterans have been placed "on the job training". Several of the veterans have applied for farm training but as yet they haven't set up the program to take care of farming. Several veterans have made application for trade schools out of the state and within the state. Mr. Keller asked that I see Hamilton Smith a Negro veteran who is greatly interested in opening a mechanic school for veterans in the parish. He stated that Smith was in to see him regarding the possibility of starting the school. He suggested that Smith go to New Orleans and see the Veterans Representative because he wasn't able to give him all the information needed. I was able to notice a decided change in Mr. Keller in that he was more cooperative and expressed the desire that I take a personal interest in Smith's case because the entire parish is behind Smith both white and colored.

Mr. Richard Smith (Negro) who is chairman of the Negro Business Legaue and acting as head of the Citizens Committee stated that the veterans have been to him by the numbers and have asked him to get information for them from the Service Officer because they were a bit shy. He stated that Mr. Keller has been very cooperative and have encourage the veterans to file for farm training and job training. Mr. Smith thought that the work of the Council was an awakening for Negro Veterans in the entire parish. I spoke to Mr. Smith regarding Hamilton Smith's case and learned that the latter is a nephew of Mr. Smith. He stated that Mr. Keller would like to see Smith open the school but was not able to make out his papers .

(cont. page 2)

Hamilton Smith has opened a garage and it was there I found him doing a bit of work. He explained to me that the Regional Office in New Orleans informed him that he would have to spend pretty close to $10,000 to open a mechanic school for training veterans that would meet government specifications. He was also told to go by and look over a few mechanic schools in the city and make his own estimation. Theytried to interest him in opening a garage and taking a number of veterans for job training. Over twenty Negro veterans have asked him to start a school there because they wanted to learn the trade. Mr. Smith is to return to New Orleans and see if he can't start his school for much less than asked by the Veterans Administration.

In St. John the Baptist parish I visited Reserve, Mt. Airy, LaPlace, Terre Haute, Lucy and Garyville. In Reserve I was able to see Mr. Barrios (white) Service Officer for the parish. He informed me that more Negro veterans have been in to see him since my first visit and that they were anxious to file application for "on the job training". Quite a few were interested in going back to school and that he doesn't have a single Negro veteran for farm training. He went on to explain the routine way the instructor will be paid. He stade that they expect to get the farm program started by September. He stated that Marshall hasn't been able to get his place approved for starting a mechanice school. I was able to pass on to him the information that you sent to me. Mr. Barrios was glad to get the information andx it appeared as if that was the first time he had heard of it. He suggested that I talk to some of the members of the committee and have them to keep after the veterans.

Throughout St. Charles and St. John the Baptist parishes, I was able to talk to quite a few Negro veterans and I found them to be more informed and ready to take advantage of "on the job training". I was able to talk to some that wanted to learn more about farming but statdd that the farming program hadn't started. I informed them that it couldn't start until they put in their application so as to give the School Board some idea as to the number of instructors they will have to contact. Most of the veterans I talled to had very little schooling and thought that they couldn't take a thing because of limited education and because of that they hadn't been in to see the Service Officer. They now know better and will go in and see about "on the farm training".

I received the phamplets in time to take with me to the two above named parishes. They were very helpful in more than one way. I regret greatly that I didn't have those phamplets when I made my initial visits to the parishes. Information given on the phamplets explain so clearly the number of things veterns have asked me about.

Trusting this report meets with your approval, I remain,

Respectfully yours,

Wesley R. Brazier

WESLEY R. BRAZIER

Field Agent

July 19, 1946

Mr. Wesley R. Brazier
1950 Jackson Avenue
New Orleans 13, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Brazier:

You need not worry too much about not hitting all the parishes for a second visit. Do what you can.

I am sensible of the very fine quality of the work you have done.

In conversation the other day with an important official of the on-the-farm training work in Arkansas, I learned that in that state at any rate a sprinkling of veterans on the borderline between sharecroppers and tenants are getting the benefit. The arrangements were delicately conveyed, but I gathered that this is what happens: A veteran comes in and applies for OFT, is told about all the papers he will need to have signed by his landlord showing that the veteran is in full control of the farm, etc.,etc. A bit to the surprise of the office, the veteran will reappear the next day with all the needed papers properly executed. He gets the benefit. Thus, as you can see, the leverage of the benefit is being used to pry sharecroppers into the better status of tenant.

Maybe some such arrangement could help a little in parts of your territory. I don't think Arkansas would want to be quoted on it.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

1950 Jackson Avenue,
New Orleans 13, La.,
July 11, 1946

Mr. George S. Mitchell
Room 432
63 Auburn Avenue, N.E.,
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

I am herewith submitting my report for July 8-10 which covers Lutcher, Remy, Edgard, Vacharie, Convent and Grammercy, in St. James Parish. I am also submitting my expense account for three days employment in the above parish.

St. James parish was one of the two remaining parishes in southern Louisiana that hadn't been covered. I decided that it would be wise to cover it before making a return trip to parishes that have been covered. I found the parish to be divided as are St. John the Baptist and St. Charles parishes.

I contacted Mr. Reyneaud (white) who is the Service Officer and the Mayor of St. James parish. Mr. Reyneaud was very much cooperative and willing to give me as much information needed to help me with my program. There are two veterans in Edgard that have been to the Service Officer regarding furthering their education; one veteran in Vacharie who has been approved for job training out of the parish. Not a single Negro or white veteran happen to be taking "on the farm training". Mr. Reyneaud explained to me that they were ready to start the program if the y could get as low as six veterans to apply for such training. He went on to tell me the system for paying such an instructor for farm training and that they have been getting out notices to white and colored veterans to come in and apply for "on the farm and job training" but to this date they haven't received one veteran. He informed me that as Mayor of the parish, he is greatly interested in the white and colored veterans taking full benefit of their advantages. Mr. Reyneaud agreed to talk to a group of Negro veterans regarding "on the farm and job training" and stated that their were several influential Negroes in the community whom he felt would be of tremendous help to me in notifying the veterans. He stated that he would have to meet the Negro veterans sometimes next week because of council and other meetings that demand his presence.

Sheriff Borgone (white) is the High Sheriff for the St. James parish. He is located in Convent, Louisiana in the Courthouse Building. I explained my mission to him and found him to be greatly interested in the Negro veterans taking advantage of their benefits and especially "on the farm training".

The sheriff stated that quite a few Negro veterans were getting into trouble and that he hated to have to put them in jail but it was his duty and he had to perform it. He thought that if the veterans put themselves to worthful use that they would not get into trouble and that most of the veterans who went into farming would have something that no one could take away from them. He suggested that I make a tour of Convent and Remy in the parish and inform the veterans and try to encourage them to do something constructive and quit "belly-aching" about being a veteran and expecting to get off light because they are veterans.

Throughout Convent and Remy along with Lutcher, Grammercy, I found the veterans to be poorly informed as to where to go for information regarding their benefits. They stated that they haven't seen any notices and that they didn't know that the Mayor was the Service Officer. Most of the veterans that I talked to were not interested in farming because of the stiff competition with white farmers. They were greatly interested in learning a trade that would be helpful in their community. They also stated that they didn't want to apply for benefits because they would have to leave the parish and that they couldn't make it off the money given by the government. Another group of veterans stated that they were offered the worse jobs in the parish for so little money and that they rather draw unemployment compensation because they would get more. I was able to change a many opinions before I left the veterans regarding farming and was able to make use of that circular put out by veterans in Chattanooga, Tenn., that was sent in by Mr. Marcus Gunter. Most of the veterans stated that they hadn't thought of it in that light and that they would try to save the remainding weeks of compensations due them for hard times.

Dr. E.N. Isadore (colored) is one of the few men mentioned by the Mayor who would be helpful to me in getting a committee formed. Dr. Isadore is an aggressive type of person and much interested in the welfare of veterans. I explained to him my program and found that he had been thinking along similar lines regarding getting veterans together for civic purposes. He stated that he would be glad to arrange with the Service Officer and Mayor for a meeting and would see the Negro ministers and have them announce the date after talking to the Mayor.

Mr. A. Carpenter (colored) operates the only cafe in Lutcher. He readily consented to helping with a committee to get veterans together to hear the Service Officer speak and to work with the committee to function until they have completed the job. He thought that the veterans weren't informed and that they were desirious of learning about their benefits. Many veterans have been in to talk to him about learning a trade and also about going back to school. He admitted that he didn't know that the Mayor was the Service Officer. Some people are of the opinion that the Mayor can't do the job effectively because he has too much work as mayor to do and the veterans go wanting.

(cont. page 3)

On the other side of the river I found the picture to be much brighter in that the veterans were more informed and they were eager to learn more about the "on the farm training and the job training". In Vacharie and Edgard I found the veterans thinking in terms of farming. They stated a few of their immediate problems regarding farming. They weren't able to get the land as they thought they would and then again they haven't been able to get the machinery. I told the veterans that they would be ableto get the land andthe machinery if they put forth more effort and contact the Service Officer and let him work out their problems. They were trying to get the land and an insight on the machinery before going to see the Service Officer. I was able to show them the point that the Service Officer also being the Mayor would be able to use his influence and power to help them get equipment and land. The veterans assured me that they would make a trip over the river and see the Service Officer about "on the farm training and job training".

Last week I talked to Mr. Moses and we went over a list of parishes in southern Louisiana and we found that St. James and Evangeline parishes were the onlydnes not contacted. Mr. Moses decided he would take Evangeline and I would take the other one. I am sure that we have made a thorough coverage of all the parishes in southern Louisiana. I doubt it seriously if I will be able to make return visits to the parishes I have contacted by the end of this month. I will do my best to catch two in a week where it is possible. Please inform me what to do in the event I can't make them all by the end of this month.

Trusting this report meets with your approval, I remain,

Respectfully yours,
Wesley R. Brazier
WESLEY R. BRAZIER

Field agent

July 23, 1946

Mr. Wesley R. Brazier
1950 Jackson Avenue
New Orleans 13, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Brazier:

I am delighted with your report of July 18th. You are having just the experience in the follow-up visits that I hoped would result.

It is fine that the men have been going in to ask for their benefits and quite interesting also that the parishes are talking about getting Negro trade classes going. This is a finding all over the South. New classes are springing up with a local push behind them.

Why shouldn't St. Charles Parish get a Negro trade school going on its own? Why do they shove it off on Hamilton Smith to do it privately? They ought to do what other counties have done - clear out the basement of the Negro high school and put in shop equipment and bring in large classes of veterans to benefit.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

1950 Jackson Avenue,
New Orleans 13, La.,
July 25, 1946

Mr. George S. Mitchell
Room 432
63 Auburn Avenue, N.E.,
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

I am enclosing my report for July 23-25, for work in St. James and Washington Parishes. I am also enclosing my expense account for three days employment along with a couple of newspaper clippings I picked up in Washington parish. One of the clippings was for my initial visit to the parish and the other for my return visit. They may be of some use to the office.

In St. James parish I was sorry to learn that the committee of Negro citizens for services to veterans hadn't gotten together for the purpose of having a meeting and inviting the Mayor and Service Officer over to speak to the veterans. All sorts of excuses were offered from not having the time to thinking some one else would get things started. After learning the situation in St. James, I spent the entire day going from town to town informing the veterans that the Service Officer would like to see them regarding their benefits and especially "on the farm and job training". I felt that the veterans would go expecting something new and after talking to the Service Officer I also felt that they would be influenced to file papers for "on the farm or job training". I believe the case is hopeless in so far as the citizens doing a thing for their veterans therefore I took it upon myself to encourage them to go and see the Service Officer at once.

In Washington Parish I founf things very encouraging. My first stop was in Franklinton where I was able to contact Mr. Furhmann (white) Service Officer for the parish. Mr. Furhmann was elated over the response he was getting from the Negro veterans particularly with regards to "on the farm training". He wasn't able to give me the exact number but he estimated that approximately 40 Negro veterans had been in to file papers for farm training. Quite a few others had been in to talk to him about "on the job training and he was able to get them to decide right then and there to file. Mr. Furhmann informed me that the Negro Citizens Committee for Services to Veterans was very active and helpful in the parish in that they have been having weekly meeting with their veterans encouraging them and mapping out for them the best courses to take regarding their benefits.

(cont page 2)

Mr. T.W. Barker (Negro), Supervisor for Negro Education was elated over the progress they have made in Franklinton. He asked that I thank you for the literature sent to him from the Regional office. I tried to get the names and addresses of the officers of the veterans club in Franklinton but the president was out of town and Mr. Barker thought it wise to wait until he returns andhe will mail it to me. Inform Mr. Bonhanan that I will send the list to him as soon as I get it.

In Bogalusa, I found the same encouraging set-up. The citizens there are really getting in after the veterans and they in turn are inquiring about "on the farm and job training. Mr. Jesse C. Crump (Negro) Chairman of the Committee informed me that they have a delicate situation there in that the Service Officer has appealed to them to send the veterans to his office instead of to the Contact Representative for Veterans Administration. It seems as though the Service Officer is afraid of his job folding up because of the addition of the Contact Representative. I was asked to help them decide what to do in that case. I informed them that such a problem was for their committee to decide but to bear in mind their objective, namely, to encourage the "vets" to "take on the farm and job training" and in so doing to think which one would give the best service to their veterans.

Mr. R.H. Tucker (Negro) Mortician, stated that since my initial appearance, he has put on a veteran for training as a Funeral Directing Assistant and that the government is greatly pleased with his actions. Other establishments there are now taking veterans for training and they are trying to get more of the Negro and white places to take veterans for "on the job training".

I received your letter this afternoon dated the 23rd. I am very glad you made that suggestion regarding St. Charles parish getting a trade school for Negro veterans. I don't think this has crossed their minds and it is really "food for thought". I will make a special trip to that parish and see if I can't in some way drop the hint to the proper officials. I your last letter you mentioned the way Arkansas was getting veterans on and I learned from Mr. Furhman that he had been to Baton Rouge and they told him that veterans didn't have to own the land but to get a statemnet that they had full charge of the land and also their equipment. Now you have another state doing the same as Arkansas. I don't think Louisiana mind being quoted on that.

Hoping this report meets with your approval, I remain,

Respectfully yours,

Wesley R. Brazier

WESLEY R. BRAZIER

ATTENTION—VETERANS

W. R. Brazier, Southern Regional Council representative whose work deals with veterans is expected in town Tuesday night or Wednesday. Mr. Brazier is desirous of seeing as many veterans as posible while here. Veteran may find the exact night he will be here by calling or coming to the YMCA or getting in touch with J. C. Crump, local chairman of the Veterans Committee.

July 23, 1946

May 13, 1946

Council Rep. Here

Wesley R. Brazier, representative of the Southern Regional Council, was in town last night and had a meeting with the local veterans and interested citizens. Mr. Brazier stated that his organization is interested in contacting Negro veterans and encouraging them to go see their service officers, who are willing to give them the latest information concerning the administration of veteran affairs.

Knowing the need of an organization that would be of assistance in directing the veterans to the service officers, the men present organized a Citizens Committee headed by J. C. Crump, local veteran. Chairman Crump is anxious to meet all veterans so that the program and purpose of the committee can be explained to them.

R. H. Tucker, local mortician, A. L. Jordan, principal of Central Memorial High School and Robt. Reeves, acting secretary of the new Colored YMCA were among the local leaders present at the meeting. Out-of-town visitors present were Fletcher Dyson, Supt. of Douglas Life Insurance Co., and Myrtis Amacker, principal of one of the parish vocational schools. All of the above named men made interesting talks and pledged their help in all efforts made to better fit the veteran for civilian life.

1950 Jackson Avenue,
New Orleans 13, La.,
August 2, 1946

Mr. George S. Mitchell
Room 432
63 Auburn Avenue, N.E.,
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

I am submitting my final report along with my expense account in compliance with your request that the work terminate on July 31st. From July 2 9 to July 31st I tried to contact those parishes I felt needed a re-visit most.

In St. Charles parish I made it a point to see the Service Officer, Mr. Keller (white) and dropped the hint about the parish financing a trade school in the basement of their high school for Negro veterans. He took me across the hall to meet oneof the officials in the Education Department but I wasn't ever tood his name therefore I didn't ask. This official from all indication was not agreeable with what I had to say. He stated that Negroes in general weren't interested in trade schools and that it would be a waste of money to clear out a basement and put a trade school there just for a few veterans. I asked him if I got a true figure from citizens in the parish regarding their desire for a trade school if they would consider such a move. He stated that he wasn't the Superintendent of Education and he was merely giving his opinion. The Superintendent of Education was out of town and wouldn't be back for a few days. The Service Officer, Mr. Keller was in favor of a trade school while I talked to him in his office but he didn't seem to think the same way in front of the Education official.

Leaving the Courthouse, I went to see Mr. R. Smith (Negro) and explained to him the same thing that I explained to officials in the Courthouse. Mr. Smith was elated over such an idea and saw no reason why they shouldn't have a trade school in the parish fro Negroes. He stated that he would contact many of the leading citizens of the parish both white and colored and out the issue before them because he thought that they would be able to work out something.

I returned to St. James Parish to see if any progreess had been made since last week and found that they are now beginning to get together. Mr. Reyneaud, Service Officer, stated that several Negro veterans have been in to see about their being wanted by him abd it was only after a while that he thought of what had been done. I informed him that I had stopped a number of the veterans throughout the parish and told them that you wanted to see them. Mr. Reyneaud stated that the boys appeared "dumb to the fact that they could take advantage of their benefits" even though he has gotten out a lot of publicity of his presence. Learning that veterans were coming in inquiring about "on the farm and job training" made me feel as though something was being done in the parish after all.

In Arcadia parish I was able to learn that the veterans are taking advantage of "on the farm and job training" along with educational benefits. Mr. Wallace Foullard (Negro) informed me that the Citizens Committee for Services to veterans has really been active and the veterans are now being encourage by citizens and parents to take "on the farm or job training". He stated that the veterans are going to try and do a bit of diversified farming but he didn't know how far they would get with it because the main produce there is rice.

Mr. Hill (white) Service Officer, informed me that he has filled out a number of application for veterans benefits but since his office didn't keep segregated files he wasn't able to give me the exact number. He did say that the veterans wanted to farm and they ran againt the problem of getting farming equipment. He stated that it is a problem with white vetersans too and that the officials are trying to see if they can't get a lead on where such equipment can be found. Mr. Hill spoke to a group of Negro veterans at the request of the Citizens Committee and he stated that a large turn out of Negro veterans surprised him.

In the three parishes I covered I couldn't help but see a change in a number of the Negroes. They all talked about the brutal killings in Monroe, Georgia, and thought that I had been in Georgia at the time of the incident. They voiced their opinion about being afraid to do a thing if they are not going to get protection which they are due. Such incidents carry a lot of weight in small communities where Negroes would like to organize but being intimidated prevent them from seeking better conditions.

It has truly been a pleasure to work with you and the Southern Regional Council. I am sure the work of the Council was timely and needed in the southern parishes of Louisiana. Without such contact, I doubt seriously if the World War Veterans II (Negroes) would have been remembered. I hope my work has been satisfactory with the Council and I hope that a great deal of good will come from my contacts with officials and citizens in parishes I have been.

Trusting this report meets with your approval, I remain,

Respectfully yours,

Wesley R. Brazier

WESLEY R. BRAZIER

P.S. Enclosed you will also find a list of officers reagrding veterans' club in Franklinton. I hope Mr. Bonhanan will be able to use it.

Field Agent

August 13, 1948

Mr. Seeley R. Brazier
1930 Jackson Avenue
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Brazier:

I have been out on a trip, which explains my delay in answering your good reports of July 23 and August 2.

In Alabama and in Georgia Negro veterans have now formed in each State a loose federation of Negro veterans and Negro veterans organizations. The Alabama one is called the Veterans Informational Committee. Its secretary is Mr. Frank P. Thomas, 2615 Eleventh Street, Tuscaloosa, Alabama. In Georgia it is called the Georgia Council of Veterans Affairs, and the secretary here is Mr. Horace Bohannon, c/o Southern Regional Council, Inc., 63 Auburn Avenue, NE, Atlanta, Georgia. Neither is an organization competing with veterans organizations. Each merely links existing organizations and scattered individuals. The aim is partly to collect statistical information about the wishes of Negro veterans in the way of jobs and training and partly to bring responsible advice systematically to the State, Federal and local servicing offices.

If you have time, it would be kind if you could talk at length with Mr. Snowden about the practicability of expanding the organization he is associated with to a state-wide basis. Mr. Ibra January, 2631 De Siard Street, Monroe, La., could doubtless give you useful links to groups in the Northern part of the State.

If you or Mr. Snowden should see a practicable way to get such an organization going, I would be willing to meet its early modest clerical and postage expenses, say, up to fifty dollars or so.

I consider that we were extremely fortunate to have your services. You should be conscious of a useful job, well done.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

August 26, 1946

Mr. Wesley R. Brazier
1950 Jackson Avenue
New Orleans 13, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Brazier:

I am writing you concerning the Georgia Council on Veterans Affairs.

After lenthy discussions with numberous people, we came upon the idea of a group composed of veterans, heads of veterans organizations, teachers, doctors, lawyers, civic leaders, social workers, and what have you in every locality. Such a group would set itself up so as to be in a position to speak with authority on the situation of Negro veterans in the State.

The function of the group will be threfold: (1) to make itself well informed, by gathering all information possible, (2) to evaluate this information and select the best practical solutions and (3) to contact responsible administrative officers of both State and federal agencies, i.e. Veterans Administration, State Veterans Service Office, and recommend the proper changes and solutions.

A group of people so organized should be able to function efficiently since no one agency or organization claims the credit or blame which can come to such a group. It should be open to all people willing to help, Negro or white, mail and female, lettered and unlettered. It should be a concentrated effort to get a job done.

Here is what our group looks like on paper.

It is intended that the Executive Council will deal with problems concerning the State and Federal agencies in Atlanta (State capital and regional office of VA) and that the District Councils will handle those problems which can be solved "at home".

I am very glad to give this information for whatever good it may be. Let me know if I can be of further help.

Best of luck to you.

Sincerely,

Horace A. Bohannon

HAB:w

1950 Jackson Avenue,
New Orleans 13, La.,
August 16, 1946

Mr. George S. Mitchell
Room 432
63 Auburn Avenue, N.E.,
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

I am in receipt of your letter of the 13th.

It was encouraging to learn what the Negro Committees are doing in Alabama and Georgia. For sometime I have pondered over the idea of a federation of committees here in Louisiana and your information has given me the needed impetus to follow through such an idea.

I talked to Mr. Snowden today as suggested. He informed me that in their July 19th minutes they discussed the possibility of uniting committies throughout the state and had planned contacting Mr. Moses, Mr. January and yours truly regarding key persons to contact in the various parishes.

The Committee here is planning to have another Institute Week in the month of October and a state wide organization would be a sure way of contacting individuals throughout Louisiana. I have explained to Mr. Snowden that I will be more than glad to give my services where ever needed.

I will contact you in the near future regarding clerical and postage expenses as soon as the foundation has been laid.

Respectfully yours,

Wesley R. Brazier

WESLEY R. BRAZIER

P.S. For my own information, I would like to get more data from you regarding the workings of the organiztion headed by Mr. Bohannon in Georgia.

Bohannon, please answer.

Field agent

September 12, 1946

Mr. Wesley R. Brazier
1950 Jackson Avenue
New Orleans 13, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Brazier:

If I can reach you by phone, I wish you would let me know where. Of course I am most anxious to talk with you on this visit.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

9/17/46

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

In re: to your recent letter , I am submitting the information you requested.

Home telephone - Canal 3238
Business telephone - Canal 5233

I will be looking forward to your trip to New Orleans in the near future.

Sincerely,

Wesley R. Brazier

1950 Jackson Avenue
New Orleans 13, La.,
December 9, 1946

Mr. George S. Mitchell
Room 432
63 Auburn Ave., N.E.,
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

Since our last person to person contact, Friday, November 29th, I have informed the director of the USO that I will terminate services with the Club on the 15th of this month, to accept employment with the Southern Regional Council. The director reluctantly stamped the word of approval for my termination.

I will be available to be placed on the payroll of the Council as of the 15th of this month. Inform me if such will be possible.

I contacted Oliver C. Fredericks as requested regarding veterans' applications for admission to the American Legion AFL Chapter. A Mr. Rogers is Commander for the white chapter and he is willing to form a segregated chapter for Negroes which will have no voice what so ever as a chapter and will not be represented at the conventions. I suggested that Fredericks contact Mitchell who is head of the Louisiana Veterans Organization which is open to all veterans regardless of race, color or creed. I also contacted Mitchell and gave him the name and telephone number of Fredericks. Mitchell is to contact me as soon as he has made an appointment with Fredericks.

Saw Clarance Laws the other night at the YMCA Membership Banquet and he was speaking highly of the recent publication of yours on the Louisiana Negro Veterans. People of Louisiana are becoming informed.

Respectfully,

Wesley R. Brazier
WESLEY R. BRAZIER

Field agent

December 27, 1946

Mr. Wesley R. Brazier
1950 Jackson Avenue
New Orleans 15, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Brazier:

I am glad you got back safe. Your wife will be able to nurse you to full health.

I am afraid the medical bill will have to come out of your pocketbook.

Mrs. Warwick will turn in the unused railway ticket and refund its coststo the Council.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

1950 Jackson Avenue
New Orleans 13, La.,
December 24, 1946

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

Enclosed is my expense account for my recent trip to Atlanta. I shudder to think sometimes what spot I would have been in had I not taken enough money to carry me through.

You will notice that I didn't include amount for telegram nor did I include medical expenses incurred while there. The medical expenses came to $6.80 for doctor fee and medicines. I didn't know if the Council would share that expense. In the event such is accepted then add it to my expense account, but in the event it isn't accepeted then count it as the Council's gain and my loss.

I left the unused portion of my railroad ticket with your secretary.

I am still indisposed and under the weather. Yes, I made it here by the hardest and at this timel am wondering if I will be able to enjoy a good Xmas dinner after taking the unpleasant medicines given me by my wife.

I am wishing for you, yours and the staff a Merry Xmas and a prosperous New Year.

Respectfully,

Wesley R. Brazier
WESLEY R. BRAZIER

January 10, 1947

Mr. Wesley R. Brazier
1950 Jackson Avenue
New Orleans 15, La.

Dear Wesley:

Here is the semi-final on the proposed pamphlet of everybody's report material.

Please read it with care and give me your views.

(1) Should it be printed at all?

(2) Can you think of some more desirable way of stringing the material together?

(3) Are all paragraphs sufficiently stripped up place and people allusions to safeguard the Council's and the agents' interests? If not, please mark spots where you think changes should be made. Probably some paragraphs need deleting altogether. Mark the ones you think can be cut out.

(4) I am not too pleased with the intorduct~~ionary~~ any statement. Any suggestions?

I will appreicate return of this copy with your notes at an early date.

Sincerely,

GSM/lg

George S. Mitchell

Take off contacts

January 11, 1947

Mr. George S. Mitchell
Room 432
63 Auburn Avenue, N.E.,
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

Enclosed find report and expense account for the period covering January 5-11, 1947, in Tallahassee (Leon County) and Jefferson County. The first part of this report will deal with Tallahassee in Leon County and the latter part with Jefferson County.

Dr. W. H. Gray (c), President of Florida A & M College, Tallahassee, Florida, stated that he would be on the go and would not be able to grant writer a formal conference but would be glad to refer him to a person who would be able to furnish the information desired. Mr. Joe Taylor was mentioned as the person to see.

Writer thought it wise to check on the set-up on the campus operated by Veterans Administration.

Mr. C.J.A. Paddyfote (c), Asst. Training Officer, Florida A & M College and Mr. L. Stebbens (c), Asst. Training Officer, sa me address were very cooperative but were unable to give the writer much information. There is a peculiar setup at the College in that both Paddyfote and Stebbens are Assistant Training Officers and do no processing nor counselling of veterans. Three blocks from the College is a Sub Regional Office of Veterans Administration where veterans of the College are processed, advised and etc. The Regional Office for the State is in Passagrille. The Regional Office corresponds with the Sub Regional Office and they in turn send out a Training Officer who is white to keep the Asst. Training Officersat the College informed and to bring back subject matter to be forwarded to the Regional Office. Seeing that everything was channeled through Sub Regional Office of Veterans Administration, writer asked one of the Asst Training Officers to take him over and introduce him to the head man at the Sub Regional Office. This was done by Mr. Paddyfote.

Mr. Busness (w) Vocational Counsellor, Veterans Administration, received writer in a cordial manner. There office kept no breakdown of veterans by races for on the farm training and on the job training. Writer asked why the College didn't have a Guidance Center on the campus and was told that a survey made by the Regional Office indicated that 50% of the Negroes in the State were within a radius of 150 miles of Daytona Beach and it was recently decided that the Guidance Center would be at Bethune-Cookman College in Daytona Beach. Mr. Busness stated that writer could get statistical data on veterans by county if he contacted a Mr. King of the Branch Office in Atlanta because

the latter had made a recent survey of the State. Mr. Busness called in the Training Officer to see if he could give writer information regarding on the job training. He also stated that there are five Negro Assistant Training Officers in the State.

Mr. Davis (w) Training Officer, stated that there wasn't a Negro veteran in Tallahassee for on the farm training. He didn't have the exact figures but he estimated that there are 10 Negro veterans taking on the job training. Mr. Davis stated that there was a good farming program in Madison County but couldn't give any further information. Writer asked both Mr. Busness and Mr. Davis to evaluate the work of the two assistant training officers at the College. They both thought that the men were doing a fine job and that they were an asset to the school. A survey of Louisiana and a copy each of on the farm and job training were left with Mr. Busness and Mr. Davis. Before leaving, Mr. Busness gave writer the name of several individuals he thought would be helpful.

Mr. Yates (w) Editor, Democrat News, Tallahassee, Florida, is on the Mayor's Committee for Veterans' housing. Writer caught him just as he was about to leave to catch a train. He stated that he didn't know too much but that Mr. J.K. Ballinger would be the man for writer to see.

Writer was disappointed in his next interview because of several things which will be brought out in the next paragraph.

Mr. Paul Eddy (w), State Department of Education, is located on the 3rd floor of Administration Building, Tallahassee, Florida. Writer introduced himself and was reluctantly received. Mr. Eddy was given literature regarding on the farm and job training and also the survey of Louisiana. Writer was asked about the "ANP" on the article written by you "On The Job Instruction Offered GIs". Being caught unaware of that question, writer thought a minute and stated that it could mean only one thing and that the article was written for the Associated Negro Press to inform Negro veterans about their benefits. Mr. Eddy wanted to know if writer was with SCHW with office in Tennessee. Writer stated again the full name of the Council and Mr. Eddy was still in doubt and asked the function of the Council. Writer explained that it was a research organization divided into several division and that writer's division was interested in veterans services. Mr. Eddy's male stenographer interrupted writed and stated that the "Southern Regional Council is the only one that has kept above the line but that the Southern Congress for Human Welfare was a bit tainted. The Council is financed by foundations and the Congress is financed by the CIO. Dr. Guy B. Johnson and another gentleman from the Council were here a week or so ago making a survey and I asked him about the Council. That Council is all right". Writer didn't get the name of stenographer. Mr. Eddy claimed that he didn't know you but writer went ahead to get information sought.

Mr. Faulkner (w) Veterans Administration, laision (sp) man was called in by Mr. Eddy to sit in on the interview. Mr. Eddy stated that his office didn't keep separate records on Negr o and white veterans for on the job training but that Mr. Wood's assistant kept it for his personal information for on the farm training. Mr. Eddy thought that he had failed in his efforts to reach Negro veterans in his on the job program because he didn't use a segregated method and thought that Negro veterans didn't know they were included. He asked writer if he didn't think the segregated approach would have been better. Writer stated that he didn't agree but that he would have to do as the Council by getting out press releases to the Negro press. He stated that it was a tough problem to get white places to take Negro veterans for on the job training but had made no attempt to get Negro business to take their own veterans for training. Mr. Eddy asked writer if he could suggest a way that he could reach the Negro veterans. Writer related his success with a number of Negro Citizen Committees in various parishes and how each member was instructed to act as a committee of one and contact three or four veterans and help him plan for his future. Mr. Eddy and Mr. Faulkner didn't think that such a plan would work but later said that it would work with me but that he nor Mr. Faulkner could get the cooperation I would get from my race. Mr. Faulkner stated that in his home town in southern Florida that he and several others thried to work with Negro veterans and they experienced hardship when the orange picking season rolled around because the veterans would leave and try to make more money. They would be on the job training and would leave and other white men would not want to take Negro veterans for fear of that happening again.
From both Mr. Eddy and Mr. Faulkner writer was informed that the on the job program had failed for Negroes. Writer was told to see Mr. Norman who would give facts about on the farm training. Mr. Eddy's office is a certifying agancy for on the job training and is in charge of the entire on the job and farm training program. Before writer left he stated that he would inform Dr. Mitchell that he wasn't known by Mr. Eddy. Mr. Eddy then wanted to know more about you and was told that you were once with Farm Security Administration and he replied "Oh, you are talking about Dr. Mitchell, he is a big man and I didn't know he was connected with that program. Yes, I do know of him". Mr. Eddy then wanted to talk more and did but didn't reveal any more pertinent information. Literature was left with his office and writer told him that when the survey is completed that he would get a copy of it.

Writer made several attempts to see Mr. Ritchie (w) County Service Officer but to no avail. On one attempt, the writer waited for one hour and ten minutes being the first in the office. Mr. Ritchie came but took in a white veteran who had come last and several other white veterans walked into his office to be next. Writer saw that he could be making other contacts because he would be there for two or more hours waiting. Staying would have retarded the progress of the writer.

Mr. Joe Taylor (c) Coordinator for Veterans Affairs for Florida A & M College gave writer quite a bit of information in a long but interesting conference. The total enrollment for the College is 1430. There are 498 veterans under Public Law 346 and 52 under Public Law 16 giving a total of 550 veterans in College. The College has a well rounded program of courses such as auto mechanic, wood works, brick masonry, radio reparing, printing, electricity, farming and the regular academic courses. Several hundred veterans were turned down because of limited class room space, limited dormitory space and insufficient number of faculty members. The State Legislature in its last session failed to make appropriations for the accelerated veteran program not thinking the war would end so soon and not thinking such a large number of veterans would be released at one time. In the new budget which will probably be allocated in a few months they are hoping they will be able to take more veterans. Mr. Taylor stated that before they were given Asst. training officers that he had to carry on the work with very little help from Veterans Administration. It was Mr. Taylor's belief that there should be a Guidance Center at the college because of the number of veterans in school and also in comparison with the number of white veterans serviced by the sub regional office just a few blocks from the school. The assistant training officers at the school have very little power and must check with the training officer before they can do very much. In his case he goes directly to the sub regional office when he need information because the officers on the campus would have to do the same if he asked them for the information.

Tried to see Mr. Yancey (w) City Manager in an effort to see the Mayor but to no avail. Writer wanted to get some information regarding the Mayor's housing committee. The secretary called the Mayor and made it possible for writer to see the latter.

Mr. Norman (w) Vocational Agriculture Assistant, State Department of Education, Capitol Annex Bldg., Tallahassee, Florida, was first desirous of getting the writer's name and address before going any further. (How about the personal cards? They would save me from writing so much.) Mr. Norman stated that they have a well rounded program fro on the farm training. A list of the teachers in in each county in the State was given the writer. Each of the teachers have veteran teachers who in turn trains the veterans in farming. It is the duty of the teacher who is usually a principal of the county school to keep a close check on the veteran teacher because they feel that even though the latter is qualified and trained he lack the experience. Each teacher is to find a veteran teacher who is certified by the State Board of Education. The maximum at the present for Negro veteran teachers is 10 veterans for on the farm training. This according to Mr. Norman is because the Negro veteran teacher doesn't have the experience to take the maximum set on a national scale of 30 but will be allowed to take more as they prove themselves. There are 33 teachers for the program in the State and 16 veterans teachers

for training veterans in farming. Mr. Norman stated that there are 175 Negro veterans on the farm training program. More Negro veterans would like to farm but because of two reasons they have been truned down. Prior to the interview, veterans were taken on a self proprietary basis in that they either had to own, rent or sharecrop because the crop must be free for the trainer to change about as he see fit. Now they plan to take veterans who will work on a farm and receive pay. The other reason for not taking many veterans is because they can't find enough Negro agriculture instructors. Mr. Norman asked writer to contact his Negro agriculture teachers when I go into the various northern counties. He also suggested that I see Mr. L. A. Marshall or Mr. G.W. Conaly at Florida A & M College. Literature was left with Mr. Norman.

Mr. F.S. Winterle (w) Mayor, Tallahassee, Florida. The mayor was very cooperative in every respect and his actions appeared to be sincere regarding the welfare of Negroes and Negro veterans. He suggested to writer that he contact Mr. Ballinger who was the chairman of his housing committee and that he would call the latter and tell him to give writer all the information he desired. The mayor stated that the State representative for the National Housing Authority would be in town tomorrow night and that he would like for writer to be present at the meeting. Writer informed the mayor that he would be in Jefferson County but would make it a point to get back in time to attend the meeting. The mayor went on to state his interest in Negroes and how he had helped them and will continue to help them. "Since I have been mayor, I have made the police department cut down on its brutality on Negroes. They go over into French town with a pistol and club and don't try to reason with the Negroes but start beating them. I feel that I could go into French town and without a pistol or club would be able to go into a club with forty Negroes around and get the drunk that is causing a disturbance to come with me and would not get a scratch. People are human and have pride and they like to be treated like people. Negroes aren't bad people and are just like other races in that they have good and bad ones in the group. The Negroes have got to start helping tehemselves a bit and they will get much further. I have several Negroes working for my gas concern and I try to get them to save $4.00 a week but I can't get one of my w rkers to do it. He is always coming to work drunk." The mayor talked for more than an hour and the writer was save by a telephone call from having to endure another hour lecture on the shortcomings of the Negro. He stated that he would look for writer at the meeting and that if he could be of any help to writer he would be glad to render service.

Mr. J. Kenneth Ballinger (w) Attorney, Chairman of Mayor's Housing Committee, 102 S. Monroe, Tallahassee, Florida. Mr. Ballinger gave a true picture of what had been done. They (committee) didn't feel at all proud of their record because they hadn't done a thing. They were helpful to Florida A & M College in getting 175 veterans homes for married veterans and they were also helpful in a concern getting the needed scarce material for

building homes that are to be turned over to Negro veterans only. These homes are located on Lake Branford Road and number about 30. The committee has no funds and very little authority but they have made a survey on houses needed for veterans both white and colored. 1600 houses are needed for the city to ease the housing shortage and that when they get them 800 will go to the Negroes because they constitute 50% of the city's population. Mr. Ballinger asked writer to attend the meeting of the committee for housing and he was assured the presence of the writer. There are 8 members on the mayor's committee. (No Negroes on the committee)

This portion of the report deals with Jefferson County of which Monticello is the county seat. It so happened that each time the writer tried to see the mayor he was told that the mayor is out of town.

Mr. J.D. McClung (w) County Service Officer, Monticello, Florida. The Service Officer is located in the Courthouse Building. He in the writer's opinion was the nastiest in courtesy up to that interview. He and another gentleman cam into the office and it was the other gentleman who asked the writer what he wanted. Thinking the other gentleman washhe service officer, the writer introduced himself and it was only after the writer started talking and he noticed the other gentleman look at the Service Officer that the writer thought that he must be involved. The dress of the se vice officer didn't impress the writer as being the one in charge. After stating the mission the servive officer stated that they didn't have any Negro veterans taking on the job training and that he couldn't help me but suggested that I see the Negro agriculture teacher. Writer asked how to get there and was told "Go down to the Sinclair sign and turn left. Go across the tracks and when you see a "darky" ask him where the school is and he will know". The writer had to listen to the other gentleman whos is Mr. Penn (w) Veterans Commission, Jackson County, Florida. He stated that there is considerable farming possibilities in his county and that since he was in my presence he could talk to writer at that time. He stated that I would be able to get a lot done if I was introduced to the Negroes in his county by some of the residents because they wouldn't listen to me. He went on to tell writer about an incident that happened in his county and was trying to show that it was not healthy for Negroes to enter his county for subversive activities because of the grapevine. "Three damm yankee niggers came down to have a meeting and I was asked by one of the local Negroes if I would help stop something that was going to end in bloodshed. I told him that he would act as the commander and that we would take orders. Two car loads of us went and were met at the highway by a group of 50"Negras" who had hoods on their head. We put on our hoods and went up to the tent where the meeting was being held. Several tried to get away but we got them all and we took the three leaders and took them out in the woods and gave them a good talking and put them out of town." Writer asked what the "damm nigger yankees wanted and he was told that they wanted to start a riot. Writer continued to listen to irrelevant talk until he saw a good opportunity to get away. Mr. Penn impressed the writer as being a man who would back Negroes to the Nth degree as

long as they didn't try to rise too high. He was in favor of the farm training program and told writer that more Negroes should be trying to do something helpful for their group instead of trying to stir up trouble.

Mr. Eddie L. Simpkins (c) teacher, Jefferson County Training School, Monticello, Florida, is the representative that Mr. Norman of the State Department of Education suggested writer see. Mr. Simpkins stated that they have 16 veterans taking on the farm training and that they would have more if they could get the agriculture teachers. All of the veterans are under Public Law 346 and are being taught by Mr. Thomas L. Sutton who relieved Mr. Flowers. He suggested that I see Mr. Sutton who would be able to help me further.

Mr. Thomas L. Sutton (c) Veteran teacher for on the farm training, Monticello, Florida. Mr. Sutton wasn't able to give the writer much information because he had just taken the place of another teacher who went into the post office as a carrier. He was able to state that the veterans are being taught the basic fundametals of scientific farming. He also stated that they don't have enough veteran teachers and that they had quite a few more veterans who would like to take the training. The 16 who are receiving the training are doing it . He was allowed to take 13 and the teacher is allowed three along with supervising the veteran teacher.

Mr. Groover (C) County Agent, Jefferson County, Florida. Mr. Groover stated that the program throughout the State is going over big and that they can't take care of the veterans until they get the necessary teachers to train the veterans. The entire county is aware of the on the job and farm program but the farming prog am is making rapid strides according to Mr. Groover. The job training in the county is out of his line but he stated that no Negroes were taking that kind of training.
Literature on farming and job training was given to the above individuals to give to veterans who are interested in the two programs.

Writer attended the meeting of the Housing Committee at the Leon County Courthouse.
Mr. W.H. Burns and Mr. W.S. Cobbs (w) Locality Expediter for the National Housing Administration, were the main speakers. A group of 10 white men were assembled and the writer made the 11th party. The speakers could shed no light on when the county would get some help for considerable housing but stated that the Authority would do all in its power to see that the "bottleneck" on available material is broken if they are contacted. They gave a list of the items that are becoming plentiful on the market and that list of materials still hard to get. They also informed the group to pay stricy attention to the new bills being introduced in Congress because they would have a lot to do with future conditions. They stated that the public housing bill now in Congress will be a good one and will make it possible to have more landlords and less

tennants because they would have more time to pay for their homes. Nothing was revealed regarding Negro veterans because it wasn't that type of meeting. The writer enjoyed the meeting and picked up valuable information regarding scarce and plentiful material.

Mr. L.A. Marshall,cTeacher-trainer, Florida A & M. College. Mr. Marshall stated that he had been to see Mr. Norman and he was told that the writer would look him up. He gave just about the same information given by Mr. Norman but also gave a few more facts very pertinent to the situation. About the end of this month or the middle of next month Mr. Marshall will have six more men for the agriculture program. He is hoping that they will be enough to keep things going until the end of the school year when he will have ample men to carry through the program. In Mr. Mrashall's office was Mr. Allen, agriculture teacher(c) who was there to discuss ways and means of encouraging the program in his county which is Jackson. He stated that they have more than a hundred Negro veterans who were desirious of learning farming and that the county is about the best in the entire State for real farming.

In the event you would like to contact me before the 19th, I will be at 1544 Jefferson, Jacksonville, Florida. After that date I pla going to St. Augustine and Daytona Beach. I still have Madison, Suwanee, Hamilton, Columbia and Duval counties to cover. I don't plan covering Baker county because the total population is very small and there are 27% Negroes. The State Department of Education doesn't have a man there because few if any Negroes from the service are there.

I have really had my eyes opened about the white people in this section of the country. I agree with you that they do hate Negroes.Keep your fingers crossed that I will come through alll right next week in the above counties.

Trusting this report meets with your approval, I am,

Respectfully,

Wesley R. Brazier

Wesley R. Brazier

P.S. I am trying to make the survey also in this section to save the Council some money. I was a bit lost in the beginning because I didn't know what Merkenson had done and he didn't answer my request to let me know what had been done. I am working as if no one has been here in order to cover everything possible.

January 18, 1947

Mr. George S. Mitchell
Room 432
63 Auburn Avenue, N.E.,
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

Enclosed you will find my weekly report for the week of Janaury 13 -18, 1947. You will notice in the expense report the number of miles traveled from Jacksonville to the nearby Counties because of no place to stay other than Jacksonville.

This report covers the following Counties and will be dealt with in the order as listed: Madison, Suwanee, Columbia and Hamilton.

Writer visited Madison, the seat of Madison County to carry out proposed mission.

Mr. A.C. Hooks (c) Principal, Madison County Training School is the teacher for the on the farm training program as directed by the Department of Education. It was learned that the program has been given a considerable amount of publicity throughout the county by both the above individual and Mr. James Miller. Through the press, personal letters sent to veterans, speeches in the Churches and schools the veterans were informed about the on the farm training program. Quite a number of veterans are desirious of taking the training but the same two factors are still evident, meaning a lack of veteran agriculture instructors and some of the veterans are still drawing $100.00 a month for personal farming. These same veterans have made it known that they intend to take the training as soon as they are cut off from the readjustment pay. There are 15 Negro veterans taking on the farm and about 10 more being processed. The former group are being trained by an instructor and the teacher.

Mr. James Miller (c) County Agent, Madison County, Fla., was very cooperative in driving around the county to make spot checks to see if the veterans knew about the program. In Madison, Greenville and Pinetta the writer found the veterans well informed and were greatly interested in taking on the job training but stated that they aren't given a break. They stated that they have been trying to get on in the county but were turned down. Writer explained to veterans that the law can't force white business men to take them for on the job training and that they would do well to consider on the farm training or make application for on the job training elsewhere if such is possible. It was evident of the rapidly vanishing memberships in the "52-20 Club" and we should be able to see a big change

in the near future.

Writer made several attempts to see the Service Officer to check on the on the job training. The Service Officer was out of town but his secretary was able to inform the writer that they have about 10 veterans placed in the county for on the job training and that a large number of the veterans were asking for on the farm training. Having thoroughly covered the county, writer left the county about dusk dark to return to Jacksonville for the night.

Suwanee County was the next county for the writer to work. In Live Oak, the seat of the county, the writer was able to go over and meet the Service Officer.
Mr. T. Bass (w) Service Officer, Live Oak, Florida, was very cordial to writer. He stated that they had about 10 Negro veterans in the county for on the job training. Mr. Bass started making excuses about not being able to place many Negro veterans and that his office wasn't slighting anyone because of color but that they couldn't force white business men to take Negro veterans if they didn't want them. He suggested that writer see the principal of the colored school who would be able to give me a great deal of information regarding the on the farm program.

Mr. E.W. McPherson (c) principal, Live Oak, Florida, is also the teacher for the on the farm program. Mr. McPherson was more than glad to take out his records and discuss them with the writer to show that they are doing a great job and would do a better one if they could get the instructors. There are three veteran teachers taking care of the farm program. 40 Negro veterans are being taught farming by the three instructors. Writer was told that only 10 veterans are allowed each instructor in the beginning but white instructors are given the maximum of 20. McPherson felt that the main reason wasn't because the instructors lack the experience but that they wanted to keep from paying the instructor $350.00 a month because the teachers would leave the school and apply to train veterans. There was a lot in what McPherson said and writer had been thinking before about Mr. Norman's statement of limiting the Negro agriculture instructors to 10 veterans. Writer asked McPherson how did they get around 40 with just three instructors and 40 veterans taking on the farm training if each instructor is allowed only 10 veterans. Writer was informed that they were given a break but that the others didn't know about it. Writer saw right away the whole set-up and that it wasn't for the purpose of better training for veterans that they limited the Negro instructors but because they were afraid of losing teachers.

Writer made a special return trip to the county to talk to the veteran instructors. The information received was the same as given by McPherson. The three instructors are: M.G. Winningham, Buford Kidd and Edward P. Ealy. It was learned this day from McPherson that he will have enough veterans for another class in another week and that he has it instructor and that his name was

sent to Mr. Norman to be certified. The new instructor will be T.W. Lawrence. The writer found this county to be the best one up to that point. McPherson asked writer to go to Hamilton County where they have a good program for on the farm trai ning. He also asked writer if he would go to Columbia County because a lot was needed there because of some unknown reasons. He stated that seven veterans from that county had been over to see him about taking their training in his county but he informed the veterans that they would have to move into Suwanee County and get their mail there in order to take the training. Nothing was beigg done in the veterans' dounty so they sought another county.

Writer made his next trip to Lake City the county seat for Columbia County.

Mr. Frank Bedenbaugh (w) Service Officer, Lake City, Fla. Mr. Bedenbaugh was very courteous to writer. He stated that they have over 200 veterans for on the job training. Writer asked the number of Negro veterans included in that amount and was told that about 10 were Negroes. Writer asked about the on the farm training program and was told that there are 4 classes going for the white veterans. There are no classes for Negro veterans and that he is waiting for the Negroes to get together to have a class. He stated that there are 15 Negro veterans certified and ready to take on the farm training. Bedenbaugh stated that it was hard to get Negro agriculture instructors because most of the Negro men were going into to tach school because of the sghortage of school teachers. He stated that the white agriculture teachers were men with degree but were doing personal farming and that they were able to get them to instruct the white veterans. Writer asked Service Officer if he would speak to a group of Negro veterans if such a meeting was arranged. He stated he would.

Mr. A.L. Green (c) principal, Richardson High School, Lake City, Florida. Mr. Green is the teacher appointed by the school board to get the on the farm training program going. When he was asked about the program Green stated that he had tried very hard to get the Negro veterans to get photostatic copies of the ir discharges and that he had gone to the trouble to take the papers to the place for copies but that the veterans wouldn't come to sign for the copies. He also gave a number of excuses and stated that the Service Officer had told him that they would have to have 20 veterans before they could start a class. Writer stated such information was incorrect and that if there was a bottleneck somwhere the writer would break it and see that the class for Negro veterans get under way. Green wanted writer to go wit h him throughout the county to see if the program was wanted. He was informed by writer that several veterans from Columbia County had been to the next county to see if they couldn't start their farm training there . Writer asked Green to arrange for a meeting of the veterans and citizens and that the Service Officer would be there and also that the writer would check with Service Officer about the number given as 20 for a class.

Writer spent the entire day riding in the county contacting veterans and informing them about the meeting that would be held the next night. It was obvious that nothing had been done in county to interest the veterans and also that a large number of veterans would like to take on the farm training.

Mr. Green rode with writer througout the county contacting veterans the next day.

Mr. Martin Ferguson (c) principal, Springville, Fla., was more than glad to discuss the veterans' problem regarding the on the farm training program. It was his opinion that little had been done because he had been contacted by a number of veterans who wanted to farm. The interesting feature about this county is that the Negroes own their land and would not have a bit of trouble starting right to work.

The meeting was a big success. Veterans now know that the farm program is going to get under way. It was too bad that the Service Officer found it impossible to attend but the writer informed him that 20 wasn't the minimum needed to start a class. Writer stated that the State Department of Education would not permit Negro agriculture instructors to start with more than 10. Mr. Green is to contact the Service Officer and get the list of 15 veterans from him and send in the name of an agriculture instructor he can get to Mr. Norman's office.

Hamilton County was the writer's next objective and it was noticed that very little encouraging was necessary insofar as the on the farm program is concerned.

Mr. Joseph Crawford (w) Service Officer, Jasper, Fla., was very cooperative. He stated that he would like to see the Negro agriculture instructors take 20 veterans in the beginning but that he wasn't in a position to do a thing about it. He stated that the on the farm program is about the best one will find in the State white or colored. Regarding the on the job training program it was learned from Mr. Crawford that very few Negro are receiving that benefit and he didn't see any solution for the problem. Literature pertaining to on the farm and job training was left with his office and he was asked to see if he couldn't encourage the veterans who seek on the job training to take on the farm training if the doors are closed to them in the county.

Mr. J.H. Braddock (c) principal, Jasper, Florida. He was very cooperative and introduced writer to all three of his veteran agriculture instructors. They have 32 veterans for on the farm training and about 10 more are in the process. He would like to spread the 10 more men around to the three instructors now on hand instead of getting another instructor. He asked writer if there was something they couldn't do to give an instructor more students. Writer informed him of Mr. Norman's statement regarding the progress of the instructor and that the

teachers would report the progress to the teacher-trainer who would in turn report the same to Mr. Norman's office.

The three instructors are: Mr. S.I. Bracey, L.L. Hampton and E.R. Scott. These men are working in the county but can be reached by writing to Jasper, Florida.

Writer made a trip to Volusia County not for the purpose of sponsoring the on the farm training program but to make a survey of the new Veterans Guidance Center at Bethune-Cookman College. The writer thought that in as much as he was within a 100 miles of the Center that he would save the Council money by going instead of making a special trip later on. I have been making this trip a two fold one in that I have been gathering information for the survey and also working the northern counties to the east as far as Jacksonville in Duval County. Writer is hoping this met with your approval.

Writer had a chance to meet the distinguished Mrs. Bethune. She as you know is the President Emeritus of the College but is still very active in the College because she doesn't have a president at the present time. Writer was told to explore the campus and be sure to make a close check of the plant.

Mr. A.A. Benton (c) Asst. Training Officer, Bethune-Cookman College, Daytona, Fla gave the writer statistical data direct from his files. There are 114 veterans taking the academic course of which 33 are taking a combination of academic and vocational training. There are 235 vocational training veterans of which 16 are under Public Law 16. 3 of the academic veterans are under Public Law 16. A total of 400 veterans are enrolled in the school. Many veterans were turned away due to lack of training facilities. The total enrollment of the school is 750.

Daytona

B-C.D.F

Mr. Noah B. Gaines (c) Asst. Training Officer, was also able to give writer a bit of information. He and Mr. Benton were the first Veterans Administration representatives at the school and they started the program. Mr. Gaines has been asking that he be given traveling expenses and he will travel throughout the county contacting veterans. They are waiting for the go signal from Veterans Administration

The new Guidance Center is staffed and directed by Negroes. It was opened December 6, 1946 and although yet in its infancy it is making rapid strides. The writer observed that five (5) appointments of veterans for tests, guidance and etc were on the schedule for the day. The Center has a Vocational Adviser who is Chief of the Center. It also has a Director of Counselling, an assistant Counselor, a Psycomitrist (sp), a Training Officer and three clerk-typists. The Center is minus a Contact Representative, a Psychiatric Social Worker and a typist to back letters for veterans

B-C-D F.

Mr. Lowry G. Wright (c) Chief, Vocational Adviser, was very helpful in explaining various things to writer about the Center.

There are just two such Centers in the State. The other Center is for white and is at University of Florida in Gainesville, Florida. There are several other units for whites but not a unit for Negroes.

B-C- DBC
~~DC-B~~

Mr. Edward Rodriguez (c) Director of Counselors, is employed by the College.

B-C- DBF

Mr. Albert Bethune (c) Associate Counselor is employed by the College.

Mr. Clark(c) Psycomitrist is also employed by the College.

Enclosed you will find a list of the individuals contacted and a bit of information regarding them. I forgot to send such a list last week.

Next Week I plan covering Duval County, St. John County and several other places of importance in Jacksonville. I don't know where I will be therefore I can't give any address at the present time.

Trusting this report meets with your approval, I am,

Respectfully,

Wesley R. Brazier

WESLEY R. BRAZIER

P.S. I still haven't received a thing regarding the work done by Merkenson. Don't bother to send it because I am going ahead just as if the State hadn't been touched by the Council.

January 22, 1947

Mr. Wesley Brazier
1950 Jackson Avenue
New Orleans 13, La.

Dear Mr. Brazier:

I want you to know how delighted I am with the two reports you have sent in. You are digging deep and getting what you dig for.

You are quite right to make this all or part of the survey trip. I am confident you can turn out a bang-up survey report.

We mailed the cards to you yesterday at New Orleans. They had just been finished. My new secretary is Mrs. Gillooley. She says please in making your expense accounts send an original and a copy to Atlanta, as we need to keep one in our own office.

I have run out of money for the moment and I am holding your two expense accounts. I expect to be in funds in two or three days and will send them on to New Orleans.

Meanwhile, you know if you get broke you can wire or phone us and ordinarily I can send you an SRC check. For the next day or two it would have to be a GSM check.

Sincerely,

GSM/lg

George S. Mitchell

1950 Jackson Avenue
New Orleans 13, La.,
January 26, 1947

Mr. George S. Mitchell
Room 432
63 Auburn Avenue, N.E.,
Atlanta 3, Georgia

RECEIVED
JAN 27 1947
Southern Regional Council
VETERANS SERVICES

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

Upon my return to the city I found a bit of correspondence from your office, thus this additional letter.

Thanks for the personal cards. I am sure that I will find it much easier to introduce myself without casting so much suspicion as in the case of Mr. Eddy.

Tell Mrs. Gillooley that I unsealed your letter in oder to comply with her request regarding duplicate expense accounts. I have been told about this before but I have been so forgetful in recent months.

I was able to make out financially without having to wire the Council for a GSM check. I did have to wire the wife and have her to send me additional funds.

I also noticed the proposed publication of experiences of field representatives. As soon as I get a good day of rest I plan reading it through and returning it to your office with comments, if any.

I am now in the possession of an account of the work done by Merkenson. The wife had forwarded it to me in Tallahassee but the hotel folks there didn't have any idea where I was so they kept it until I returned, which was yesterday.

Glad to learn the other reports met with your approval.

Respectfully,

Wesley R. Brazier

Wesley R. Brazier

January 25, 1947

Mr. George S. Mitchell
Room 432
63 Auburn Ave., N.E.,
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

This report will bring to a close assigned duties in the northern portion of Florida. You will notice that I covered from Tallahassee east to Jacksonville and then to Daytona Beach in Volusia County. Quite a bit of the coverage beyond Duval County was for the purpose of obtaining information for the survey.

The work in Florida had its bitter and sweet moments but all in all cause carried with it a great deal of impetus and to a large bit was a challenge to officials of the section covered.

This report will deal principally with St. Augustine in St.John County and Jacksonville in Duval County.

Florida Normal College is located in St. Augustine, Fla. The total enrollment of the school is 512. Of this number there are 182 veterans pursuing academic and vocational degrees. The College was made a four year one as of 1945. Courses offered for veterans are; teacher training,cosmetology, carpentry, printing, auto mechanic, radio, electricity, welding and commercial drawing. At the present time the school does not have courses in agriculture but is deeply interested in instituting same. The College has a sub training academic department which is meeting the needs of many veterans and quite a number ofothers who aren't College material but can become college material by succesfully completing the course.

Mr. J.L. Tilly(c), President, Florida Normal College, St. Augustine, Fla., was more than glad for writer to spend some time with him and also to visit the plant and make suggestions which would prove helpful to the institution. Mr. Tilly was highly in favor of the program and thought that a movement is now under way to get most of the Negro colleges to discontinue the old idea of Booker T. Washington. He thought that through the skill trades being offered in the schools the Negroes would be placed on a level with others in the field and would have a chance to compete for skilled jobs. He stated that he has been watching the trends and he thought that the Council was doing a great piece of work in encouraging veterans to take on the farm and on the job training. Mr. Tilly stated that he would like to take more veteran but they were now over crowded and because they offered no courses in agriculture they had to turn down many others.

Mr. Albert Stevens(c) Asst. Training Officer, Florida Normal College, St.Augustine, Fla. Mr. Stevens escorted the writer about the school and gave the information regarding veterans. It was his belief that the school was doing all in its power to meet the need for more veterans but they couldn't get the facilities and the usual needed items. The other Asst. Training Officer at the school is Mr. Robert Saunders.

Quite a bit of time was spent in Duval County and especially in Jacksonville.

Mr. James E. Bennett(c) County Service Officer. Writer was interested in learning about the on the farm and job training. Mr. Bennett was very cooperative. He stated that there was no farming program in the county but that he was glad writer had come because he had wanted to get such a program going and that some of them had made attempts but they didn't know just which way to go. He stated that quite a number of veterans have been to his office inquiring about the farm program. Although Duval County doesn't have a market for farm products,the veterans and himself didn't see why they couldn't start one. Mr. Bennett stated that a Mr. Akra now teaching at Douglas Jr. High School had been over to talk to him about heading up a farm program since he (Mr. Akra) is an agriculture major. Mr. Bennett called Mr. Akra and arranged for a meeting in his office for the following day at 3:30 P.M.

Mr. Bennett stated that since mid September, 141 veterans have applied for on the job training. 16 veterans were taken by contractors, plasterers and brick layers; 8 veterans were placed in shoe shops; 2 with undertaking establishments for management training; 1 shipping clerk; 2 with a meat packing plant. The County Service Officer was instrumental in getting most of the placements for the veterans and stated that he had to show the contractors "some deep points" before they would accept veterans for training because of their union. Mr. Bennett stated tht he has made any number of calls to Negro business men and have found them to be greatly interested but mis-informed about the laws. He is gradually getting a number of them to see the "light". Mr. Bennett stated that he was recently contacted by a white man who is just about ready to accept veterans in his semi-trade school. As soon as his place is approved by the authority he plan to take 15 white and 15 Negro veterans for training. Training will be in such trades as sheet metal, welding, contracting, block finishing and etc.

Writer called Mrs. Haven to make an appointment but was told that writer should see a Mr. L.I. Alexander who would be able to give writer a great deal of information. Mrs. Haven stated thatshe had just sent a list of articles to your office. Writer stated that he wanted to see Mr. Daniels(w) and Mrs. Haven asked writer to contact her when appointment was made and that she would come to Mr. Daniels' office and see writer then. Writer made several attempts to see Mr. Daniels and also Mrs. Haven but since writer wasn't able to see Mr. Daniels then he didn't get a chance to see Mrs. Haven. Nothing was lost because writer went ahead as though nothing hadhappened.

Mr. L. I. Alexander(c),Realtor was glad to be of service to writer. He stated that he had been contacted by the Mayor for the purpose of being on a housing committee he was appointing. It so happened that this committee is functioning but not a Negro is on the committee. Mr. Alexander had a chance to see the Mayor later and was told the chairman was given the power to make his own selections and therefore his name was omitted. Mr. Ale ander is recognized by the Veterans Administrations as an appraiser and the only Negro in the County with that break.

Mr. Alexander is also Area Comander of the American Legion. He stated that they have 66 Negro American Legion Posts in the State and according to the last report they had 2400 members. He stated that the Legion is divided into Districts but they made up an additional district which is composed of Negroes. There are 10 districts in the State and since the Legion accepted Negro veterans they added another district and called it the 11th district.

It was learned that there are several veterans organizations opened to Negroes. American Legion, American Veterans Committee, Veterans of Foreign Wars and Disabled American Veterans can all be found in Jacksonville. Writer was uable to get e act data on the other organizations as he did with the American Legion. There are two chapters of the AVC in the city.

Mr. Copus G. Bradham(c), Commnder of Colored Chapter of AVC, 1758 Louisiana St., Jacksonville, Fla. Mr. Brdham stated that he didn't know the aumber of chapters in the State because they have as yet to have a State wide convention. He did state that they have tow chapters in Jacksonville; one for white and the other for colored veterans. Writer asked why they accepted separate chapters when the constitution of the organization states that there will be no segregation on the basis of color. Mr. Bradham stated that they thought it wise because the white citizens would have branded the organization as Communists had they been one. As it is they have the right to meet together and often do but they are independent of each other. The Negro chapter has a total of 38 members and a number of prospective members.

Mr. J.S. Irving, Sr.(c), Asst. State County Service Officer, Clara White Mission Bldg., Jacksonville, Fla. Mr. Irving had just returned from one of his trips throughout several counties. He and the writer were able to discuss the situation in Columbia County regrding the on the farm training program. He stated that he had been told about the writer having been in the county and the good piece of work done and that he was very much interested in seeing that the county begin its on the farm training program. He also stated that he saw the key individuals and feel pretty sure that something will be under way in less than two weeks. Writer asked about the program in oter counties he covers. Mr. Irving stated that the farm training program is going good and also mentioned the lack of agriculture teahers. The on the job program was a different story. He thought"the salvation of the Negro veterans can be found in the Negroes themselves. Open up their business to veterans of their own race since they see the doors are being shut by the other race." Mr. Irving has been making a number of contacts during his

travel in different counties.

Mr. Irving stated that they have three chapters of Disabled American Veterans in the State with a total membership of 75. He informed writer that at one time they had an organization of Negro veterans totaling more than 5000 but hen the American Legion accepted Negro veterans they lost about half of this number due to ignorance of most of the members.

The Florida State Employment Service FSES)has two separate offices. One of the office serves white and is loca ed on Bay Street. The other office serves the Negroes and is located on Adam Stre t in Jacksonville.

The Adam Street office employs 10 individuals. The manager and two others are white and the other 7 are Negroes. Writer was introduced to the manager, Mr. Holloway(w) FSES, Jaksonville, Fla. Mr. Halloway stated that their office was started as a labor supplying ffice for laborers when Camp Blandin was being built in 1 40. Since that time they have been ableto operate as a unit of its own working solely with Negroes. There are suppose to be two other such offices in the country. Writer asked opinion of Mr. Holloway regarding Negro staff and the response given by the clientele. He stated his office hasbeen highly praised for the effeciency and wonderful record in working with job placements, unemployment compensation, G.I. claims and etc. The office is servicing 4000 men, women and veerans each month. One third of the above number happen to be veterans. 90% of the veterans come to the office for unemployment compensation and 10% for jobs.
The FSES works very closely with the Negro Welfare League, Negro Chamber of Commerce and the County Service Officer.

Writer journeyed over to Mr. Bennett's office for the meeting regarding a on the farm training program in Duval County. Present for the meeting were: Mrs. Gilmore(c) Pittsburgh Courier, Mr. George Knox(c) Veterans Representative for FSES, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Irving and the individual most interested in the program Mr. Akra.
Mr. Bennett introduced writer and stated what had been done by the group in an effort to start a farm program in the county. Writer discussed many points with the group and suggested that they write to Mr. Norman since they had a man in the city who was qualified and trained in agriculture. Writer felt sure that Mr. Norman would be the starting point and that their program would get under way in a short time. Writer also discussed ways and means for stimulating on the job training among Negro business men. The group decided that a lack of understanding wasthe real factor for Negro business men refusing to take veterans for on the job training. Mrs. Gilmore was asked to give the on the farm and job training a great deal of publicity in the Negro weekly and also to get articles ready for the white papers because many don't read the Courier. The group decided that they would meet as soon as Mr. Akra received a reply from Mr. Norman regarding farm training.

Mr. J.B. Monroe (c), Supervisor, Duval County Negro Vocational School, Jacksonville, Fla. Mr. Monroe stated that the school is financed and supported by the County School Board. The School employs 5 istructors. There are 118 veterans enrolled in four trades; 196 veterans on the waiting list; 95 civilians on the waiting list nd 155 veterans contacted by the Service Officer who are also on the waiting list. Many have been turned away because of limited training facilities. Courses offered are: Auto mechanic sheet metal, cabinet making and tailoring. The writer walked thru the school and found it to be a sad replica of what a vocational school should be. Courses are needed in shoe making, brick laying, plastering, printing, upholestering, body and fender work, radio and electricity.

I have beenable to pick up a considerable amount of information for the survey that I didn't include in my reports. It is my opinion that spot visits to Miami, St. Petersburg, Tampa, West Palm Beach and Pass - a - grille would supply me with the missing bits of information needed. The Regional Office of Veterans Administration is located in the latter mentioned city. Please inform me asto the next steps to take.

You have probably noticed that I have been having trouble with this portable machine. The letter "X" and the number "9" aren't working on this machine.

I will be in New Orleans until I receive some word from you as to my future assigments.

Trusting this report meets with your approval, I am,

Respectfully,

Wesley R. Brazier

WESLEY R. BRAZIER

February 10, 1947

Mr. Wesley R. Brazier
1950 Jackson Avenue
New Orleans 13, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Brazier:

The enclosed failed of delivery.

It is important - Withholding Tax Statement.

Could you without spending too much time and trouble try to get it to him?

If no channels will reach him, send it back to me including the envelope.

Sincerely,

GSM/lg

George S. Mitchell

Enclosure: (1)

February 15, 1947

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Room 432
63 Auburn Avenue, N.E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

I am enclosing a report for the week of February 9-15, 1947 and also the expense account. This report will cover the major portions of Dade County including Miami, Liberty City, Perrine and Homstead. It will also cover Key West, Florida, where writer made a trip in vain in an effort to see the Assistant State Service Officer.

The Colored Veterans Service Center is located on 166 N.W. 10th Street in Miami. Mr. L.G. Blackus is the Assistant State Service Officer; Mr. Frank Jones, County Service Officer and Miss Rose Green, Interviewer. Mr. Blackus was out of town and would probably be gone for a couple of weeks. Writer was able to talk to Mr. Frank Jones (c) regarding services to Negro veterans in the County. Mr. Jones informed writer that he had been appointed three weeks ago and didn't have the information writer was seeking but would be glad to give any information known to him. He stated that they didn't have an "on the farm training program" for the county. Over a hundred veterans have asked Mr. Jones about farming in Perrine and Homestead. He didn't think any thing could be done until writer informed him about the program under way in the Northern section of the state. Plans were made to contact Mr. Norman after getting a list of veterans who really wanted to farm and also preparing papers for them in order to become eligible. It was also decided to be sure there was an agriculture teacher available and have him make application to the state office for certification. Mr. Jones is certain he can comply with the above requirements and will get to work on such a program as soon as the Assistant State Service Officer returns to the city. Mr. Jones having been recently appointed must go to Pass - A - Grille for a two weeks course in duties performed by county service officers.

Writer made several trips to Florida Industrial Commission, Florida State Employment Service on different days in an effort to see Mr. Melvin Jackson, who is manager of the Miami F.S .E.S .

On one of the trips, writer was able to talk to Mr. Alfonso Matthews, Veterans Employment Representative. He stated that he didn't have any figures on the number of veterans they service but that writer would be able to get such information from the manager. Mr. Matthews escorted writer around the place which is located on 363 N.W. 11th Street, and introduced writer to the staff. The veterans were in large numbers and were being serviced in an admirable way.

Mr. Melvin Jackson (c) is the manager of the Miami FSES. He stated that last month they serviced 6029 individuals; 2839 were females, 1564 were veterans and the others civilian males. The total placement for the month was 1376; 725 were females, 333 veterans and the others were civilian males. At the present time they have 93 veterans drawing unemployment compensation. Due to the large placement last month they were able to cut down on the number drawing unemployment compensation. Mr. Jackson stated that they expect to have an increase in "52-20 members" because they don't see where the jobs are going to come from for the veterans. The entire staff appeared to be one big family and according to the manager they get along swell. This is the only FSES of its kind in the state with an all Negro staff. Nine individuals make up the staff; two of this number work in the claims section. There is a definite shortage of personnel. Mr. Jackson stated that he has been asking for more help because they are "swamped under" and can't ever catch up with the work on hand. They are doing the essential duties but are not able to keep a good filing system nor keep up with correspondence. Writer asked Mr. Jackson to arrange for a meeting with his immediate superior and together see if something couldn't be worked out. This, Mr. Jackson was glad to do and made the arrangements for the meeting.

Mr. Jonathan A. Bliss (W) is the Local Office Manager and is located on 501 N.E. 1st ~~XXXXX~~ Avenue. He was very cordial to writer and was point blank in his statements. Mr. Bliss stated that he knew the office was under staffed but that two other of his offices are greatly under staffed and have larger loads than the 11th Street branch. He stated that he had gotten an approval for the hiring of six more workers but that he hasn't been able to get any one to accept the jobs. Writer asked wouldn't it be a good idea to let the 11th Street office take two of those six and when he located someone to take the other four he would then have time to make another request for more workers. Mr. Bliss still couldn't see how he could give them more workers until he had taken care of the other two offices. Seeing that a file clerk was needed and also a stenographer, Mr. Bliss again promised as has been done before to get them two more workers as soon as he could arrange it. Writer asked Mr. Bliss his opinion of the work done by the 11th Street office. He stated that the latter office had a higher job placement than the white FSES and that they ranked very high among FSES throughout the state. Mr. Bliss went on to talk at lenght about the appalling situation they would face in the next 45 days due to the ending of the winter season, closing of hotels, no building going on because of limited contracts, the bad farming season for farmers around Perrine and Homestead and a number of other things. He also stated that they were going to put forth added effort to influence veterans to accept jobs paying as little as seventy-five cents an hour because the job situation will become so tight that they will be asked to accept less when later called on. Along with Mr. Bliss was Mr. R.B. Smith (w), Local Office Claim Manager who remained silent throughout the conversation after making a routine check on the claims section and giving a high rating to the section.

Dr. I.P. Davis (c) dentist is certified by Veterans Administration to take care of dental work for Negro veterans. He is also an influential person in the community. He was responsible for pushing the issue for Negro Assistant State Service Officers after being informed by one of the Commissioners that something should be done to get Negro veterans in the program. Dr. Davis stated that he is called upon by Veterans Commission to give his opinion about applicants for certain poisitons with the Commission. He stated that he has been kept busy fighting for the little things often denied Negro veterans. He was called on to get a man for the position of Assistant State Service Officer and to be sure they got a good man he contacted Mr. L.G. Blackus who was at that time with the Federal Recreation Program. The latter wasn't able to get a release for a month so they held the job open for him. Dr. Davis is also very active with the local chapter of the American Legion. Address-1036 N.W. 2nd Avenue.

Dr. A.W. Henry (c) medical doctor is certified by Veterans Administration to examine Negro veterans. His address is 1026 N.W. 2nd Avenue, Miami, Florida. Dr. Henry stated that he has examined quite a few veterans for Veterans Administration. The veterans are given a form P 10 by either Veterans Administration or Colored Veterans Service Center to take to the doc or who examines the veteran and diagnosis and give recommendations.

Mr. William R. Simonds (w), Commissioner, 4th Congressional District, State Veterans Commission, P.O. Box 805, Miami, Florida. Mr. Simonds stated that he was responsible for the state having Negro Assistant State Service Officers and that he thought it no more than right that Negroes be given a break in the program because they fought like the others and are law abiding citizens. He felt that the addition of Negro personnel helped in more than one way becaus e trouble would be kept down if the veterans are pleased and they will feel pleased if they think that they are not being left out of the picture. He also stated that he would like to see more Negro County Service Officers and more Assistant State Service Officers and that he had a time trying to convince the members of his district that Negroes should be treated fairly. Mr. Simonds also stated that they expect the state to take over the entore program in the near futyre and they will be able to place Assistant state service officers in various counties now too poor to pay the salary of a service officer. The state up to this point has spent over $433,00 for veterans' work and that Dade county alone gave over $42,00. Mr. Simonds would like to be placed on the Council's mailing list and gave his address to be sure that he would get the material. Writer assured him that he would get literature from the Council and would also see that ~~that~~ he got a copy of the survey. He didn't know a thing about the Council but had an idea it was the other organization but didn't say it. He stated that he would do all in his power to see that more openings are created for Negro veterans.

Mr. L.G. Blackus (c) Assistant State Service Officer, 166 N.W. 11th Street, Miami, Florida. This individual really comes up to the expectation of his superiors. Mr. Blackus stated that he has not been able to cover the counties as he would like to do because he has had enough work in Dade County to keep him there. Now that they have been given a County Service Officer he will spend more of his time traveling through the four counties under his jurisdiction. He stated that this office has interviewed well over 1,000 individuals each month and have been able to give them excellent service. Writer asked Mr. Blackus about the farm program. He was told about the program in the other section of the state and the possibilities of starting a program in this county and the other three co nties under his supervision. He was very glad to get the information and stated that he would get the necessary information given to Mr. Jones and see if he couldn't get the program started. When asked about the on the job training program the writer was told that they have quite a number of veterans doing on the job training. Mr. Blackus stated the same old problem common to other places about veterans being turned down by white establishments. Writer asked if they had put forth any effort to see the Negro business men. A little effort has been put forth but with the heavy load on the one capable person very little could be done. With the addition of Mr. Jones both the farm and job training programs will be given a considerable amount of attention. All of the national veteran organizations are found in Miami with the exception of the VFW and the DAV. A chapter of the latter is now in the making. The Avc follows the same pattern as in Jacksonville in that they have two distinct chapters; one for the Negro veterans and one for the white veterans.

Mr. Norton Ganger (w), Commissioner at Large, Florida State Veterans' Commission, 601 N. Miami Ave., Miami, Florida. Mr. Ganger is a fine person to talk to and to discuss problems of interest involving veterans. He is greatly in favor of the way the state has put into effect the program including Negroes and he felt justified that the Negroes hired by the state are doing a fine job. It is Mr. Ganger's duty to cover all of the six Congressional Districts and is in constatnt touch with Mr. Dave Wiley, State Service Officer. Mr. Ganger was also under the idea that pretty soon the entire program willbe under the jurisdiction of the state. This will be a big advantage because in cases where counties are lacking the state will be able to take up the slack. Mr. Ganger would like as did Mr. Simonds to get literature from the Council. The writer is of the opinion that both Mr. Ganger and Simonds will be of tremendous help to the cause of Negro veterans once they are encouraged to go forth. Literature from the Council will help to enlighten thses two individuals. Mr. Ganger owns and operates an air conditioning business and was in the midst of a lot of work when writer announced himself. Seeing the situation, writer made it a point not to take up too much of his time but to drop a few helpful hints and to get Mr. Ganger's opinion about certain measures.

I sent a telegram to Mr. David Wiley asking if he would be in Pass- A-Grille Monday because I was planning to be there then and would like a conference with him. As yet I haven't received a reply. I have been told by Mr. Simonds, Mr. Blackus, Mr. Ganger, Dr. Davis, Mr. Jones and others that Mr. Wiley would be in town soon, therefore, I thought it wise to wire Mr. Wiley to be sure.

I plan leaving here Sunday by plane for St. Petersburg. I will cover the latter named place, Pass-A-Grille, Tampa and go to Jacksonville to check on the progress made relative to on the farm training for Duval County.

This is a hard place to find a place to lodge. Having been turned down by three hotels I went to the Colored Veterans Service Center and told them I had gotten a place but would like for them to get me a better place to stay so I could sleep in the bed alone and not have bed bugs disturbing my siesta. They were able to get me a spot at one of the hotels that turned me down. This also a boom town and they think everybody has money and that you are down for a vacation.

Trusting this report meets with your approval, I remain,

Respectfully,

Wesley R. Brazier

WESLEY R. BRAZIER

Brazier

February 18, 1947

Mr. Wesley R. Brazier
1950 Jackson Avenue
New Orleans 13, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Brazier:

I am glad to have your letter of February 15th with its good account of your work in Florida.

I have sent the dope to Simonds and Ganger and will put them on the mailing list.

Expense check enclosed.

Would you like to come up to Atlanta to write up your stuff? Do it here or at home as you prefer.

I learned from someone that in late November or early December 1946 the Florida state service officer of the Legion held a meeting of some 55 Negro service officers of Legion Posts in Florida and instructed them for two days. One night they talked steadily until ten o'clock.

One of the Negroes ~~personally~~ pictured wrote a memorandum describing the meeting and its value. I was unable to get the memorandum but hope to get it sent me.

I thought this might turn up a worthwhile trail for you.

Sincerely,

GSM/lg

George S. Mitchell

March 10, 1947

Mr. Wesley R. Brazier
1950 Jackson Avenue
New Orleans 13, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Brazier:

I am sorry to tell you that I do not have the money with which to continue to keep a field agent at work on veterans services.

I can pay your salary and necessary travel through April 15th, and in addition can pay any accrued annual leave which you may have due you April 15th.

My hopes for having sufficient funds to keep up the veterans work straight through the year have not been realized.

You were generous in coming along with me, and you have worked hard and well on the job.

I should think it would be perfectly possible for the Florida survey to be completed in the time remaining. When it suits you, perhaps you can come on in to Atlanta for finishing the writing.

Sincerely,

GSM/lg

George S. Mitchell

March 11, 1947

Mr. Wesley R. Brazier
1950 Jackson Avenue
New Orleans 13, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Brazier:

We sent out some follow-up material to the following two addresses. Both came back marked "no such post office". Can you help us identify these men and their proper addresses?

Mr. Martin Ferguson, Principal
Springville, Florida

Mr. W. J. Collins
Veterans Administration
Bentley, Florida

The first one was mentioned in your letter to us of January 18, 1947.

For the moment we do not find the written reference to the second man but I suppose it is about somewhere.

Sincerely,

GSM/lg

George S. Mitchell

Mr. Mitchell:

I have made several attempts to see Mr. Snowden to approve my expense account but to no avail. I am sending the report and expense account without his stamp of approval.

Kindly advise me as to future steps when Mr. Snowden is not to be found. I couldn't get definite information as to his presence in town. The school year at Dillard U. has ended.

Wesley R. Brazier

WESLEY R. BRAZIER

UNION REPORTER Magazine Section

Southern College Girls See Unionism at Work; Train for Leadership

Organized Migration continually takes on new proportions! This time we find that the Meat and Cannery Workers Union, Local 56, AFL, and the Southern Tenant Farmers Union have cooperatively brought over 300 college girls from the southern states to work in New Jersey for the summer.

During the past three seasons, these two Unions have been responsible for the transporting of over 2,000 workers to areas of labor shortage in the North from areas of unemployment in the South. They have been employed at a dozen different plants in New Jersey, Delaware, and Pennsylvania, and have come in numbers ranging from four to four hundred at a time.

Plan Holds Real Promise

But this is something new . . . . this bringing of young college students to jobs in the North during their summer recess. And it holds real

S.T.F.U., and spent the entire month of May traveling throughout the South visiting various colleges, with the assistance of President H. L. Mitchell and other officers of the Union.

Girls All Union Members

During her stay in New Jersey, Miss Kelley was employed by the Deerfield Packing Corporation, as were the other girls in the group. She did an outstanding piece of work as head of the Student Workers Grievance Committee. All of the young ladies held seasonal membership cards with the Meat and Cannery Workers Union, which has a Union shop agreement with Seabrook Farms, of which the Deerfield Packing Corporation is a part. This arrangement was worked out by Leon B. Schachter, President of the New Jersey Union, and Mr. Mitchell.

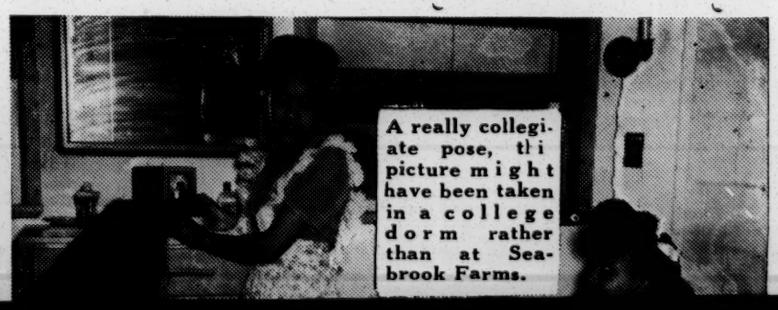
Transportation for the group was furnished by the

from Jamaica and Porto Rica. And there are any number of varieties of Americans, including a large group of Americans of Japanese descent.

Train Future Leaders

Most of the girls have now returned to their various colleges to start the fall term of school. All in all, they found their summer experience to have been very worthwhile. They have seen Unionism at work, and will spread the good word throughout the many communities in which they will become the leaders in the future.

There's time for letters home and "an evening with a good book" in this attractive map-decorated room. The room serves as an excellent place for the girls to get together and discuss future plans.



A really collegiate pose, this picture might have been taken in a college dorm rather than at Seabrook Farms.

UNION REPORTER Magazine Section

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Plan Holds Real Promise

But this is something new . . . . this bringing of young college students to jobs in the North during their summer recess. And it holds real promise for progressive Union leadership in the future.

Now . . . what's the story?

These young ladies are all Student Members of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union, recruited in cooperation with officials of colleges located in the states of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, Arkansas, Texas, and Oklahoma.

The big recruiting job was done mainly through the efforts of Mae Pearl Kelley, a student at Le Moyne College in Memphis, Tenn. She is a member of the General Executive Council of the S.T.F.U., and spent the entire month of May traveling throughout the South visiting various colleges, with the assistance of President H. L. Mitchell and other officers of the Union.

Girls All Union Members

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Transportation for the group was furnished by the Company, and each group of girls traveled by special coach under the guidance of a group leader, elected before they left the South. They are housed in the Seabrook Domitory, a large and modern Federal Housing unit. There they have a chance for a unique experience, with opportunity for acquaintanceship with young people from many different parts of the country . . . and the world. The place is literally as cosmopolitan as the old "melting pot" itself. There are young folks who are in this country under international agreement from Jamaica and Porto Rica. And there are any number of varieties of Americans, including a large group of Americans of Japanese descent.

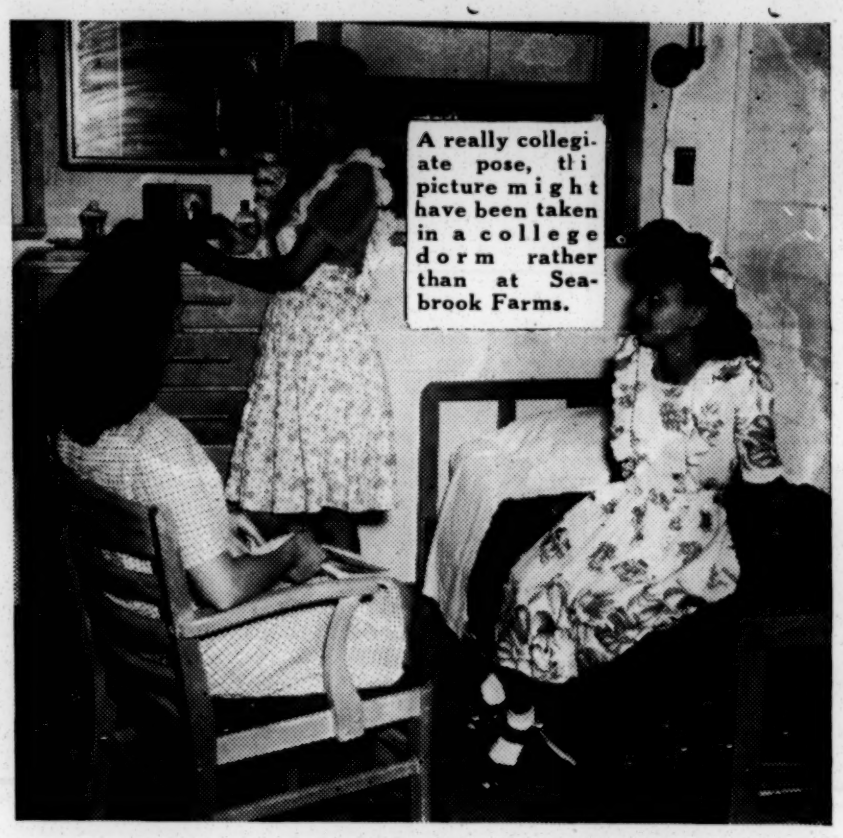
Train Future Leaders

Most of the girls have now returned to their various colleges to start the fall term of school. All in all, they found their summer experience to have been very worthwhile. They have seen Unionism at work, and will spread the good word throughout the many communities in which they will become the leaders in the future.

There's time for letters home and "an evening with a good book" in this attractive map-decorated room. The room serves as an excellent place for the girls to get together and discuss future plans.

MAE PEARL KELLEY

The young lady who did most of the big recruiting job is Mae Pearl Kelley, who was also group leader during the girls' stay in New Jersey.



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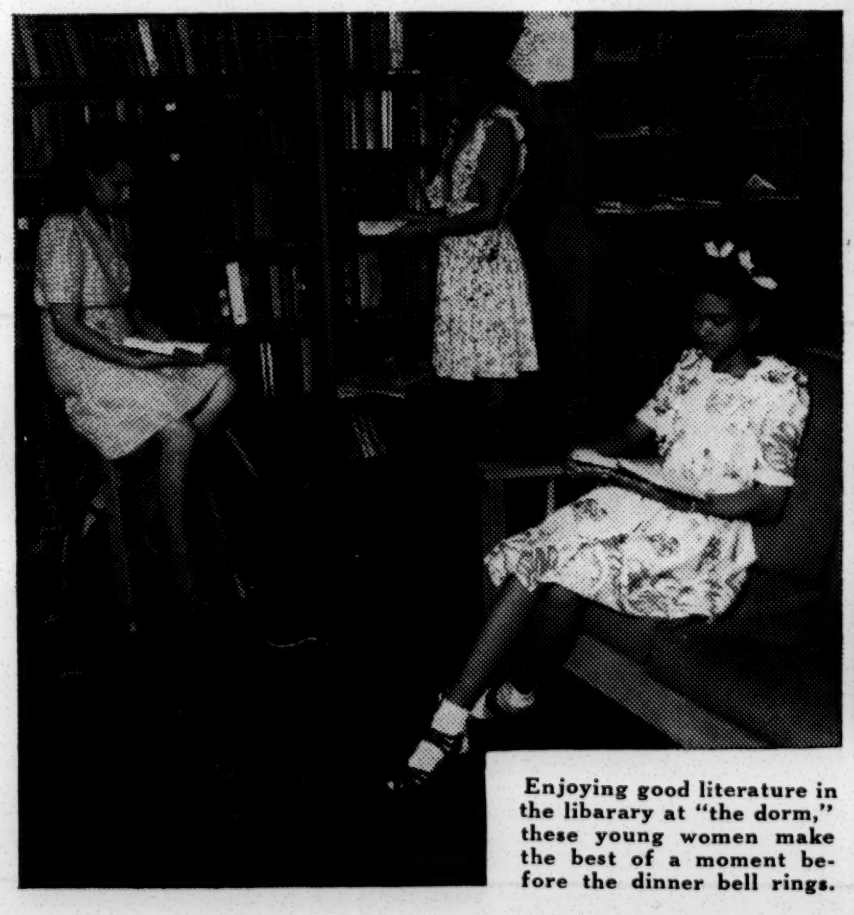

Enjoying good literature in the libarary at "the dorm," these young women make the best of a moment before the dinner bell rings.

Odell Gatewood, Marionette Clemons and Dorothea Gibson, three students from southern colleges, are busy at a sorting table in Deerfield Packing Corp. Most of the young women who spent their summer weeks in New Jersey worked at such tables as the above sorting beans, peas, asparagus or spinach for processing.

(Reprinted from the Union Reporter, official organ of the Meat and Cannery Workers Union, AFL, for the Southern Tenant Farmers Union.)

Field Agent
Gunter

April 1, 1946

Mr. Marcus H. Gunter
916 First Avenue, South
Nashville, Tennessee

Dear Mr. Gunter:

Many thanks for your report of March 28th.

I believe that if you reach a good number of the Negro and white Vocational Agricultural Teachers out in the counties you will find that their pressure from below can speed up on-the-farm training in Tennessee.

They will see at once the advantages of bringing in new candidates for the training.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

PAUL D. WILLIAMS, RICHMOND
PRESIDENT
P. E. YOUNG, NORFOLK
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT
FRANK W. SPENCER, SAVANNAH
SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT
CARTER WESLEY, HOUSTON
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CHARLES S. JOHNSON, NASHVILLE
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SECRETARY-TREASURER
GEORGE S. MITCHELL
DIRECTOR OF VETERANS SERVICES
RAY WARWICK
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

Southern Regional Council, Inc.

ROOM 432, 63 AUBURN AVENUE, N. E. ATLANTA 3, GEORGIA

A Council to attain, through research and action, the ideals and practices of equal opportunity for all peoples in the South.

March 28, 1946

Mr. George S. Mitchell
Room 432, 63 Auburn Ave.
Atlanta, Georgia.

Dear Sir;

The farm program in Tennessee is moving very slowly. From the information that I have been able to gather it doesn't seem that many people in the state department know very much about it. I did not get a chance to C. E. Freeman who is the state director of Vocational Education but talked with a number of people in his office who informed me that the Farm Training was in a state of infancy.

I am forwarding to you the first plan of Operation. It will probably be the first of the year before it starts moving.

Yours very truly
Marcus H. Lewis

Field agent
gunter

April 3, 1946

Mr. Marcus H. Gunter
916 First Avenue, South
Nashville, Tennessee

Dear Mr. Gunter:

I never saw such a burst of energy. You must have called on practically everybody in Nashville who could influence job training in any way. That does mountains of good. I particularly like your getting into the places where the veterans gather.

It would be good for you to have in mind a possibility of your writing in a couple of month's time a summary report on services to veterans, and particularly Negro veterans, in Tennessee.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

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3/30/46

Mr. George S. Mitchell
63 Auburn Avenue N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Sir:

Arrived in Nashville early Tuesday morning. Spent the entire day visiting people who could be helpful to our program. Also, beginning our approach. Began contacting people Wednesday. I visited the State Department of Veteran Affairs, of which G.W. Steagall is the director. Had a long talk with his assistant, a man by the name of Cross. I explained to him my mission. He feels that we should be able to help Veteran Administration. He is willing to help the Negro Veterans in any way he can. Few Negro Veterans have been to see members of his staff concerning "On the job training", or "On the Farm training". He gave me a list of all the field representatives in the department of Veterans Affairs for the State of Tennessee, and a letter of introduction.

After leaving Mr. Cross, I visited the State director of Vocational Education, C. F. Freeman. He and his assistant were out of town but his office staff gave me all the information I desired. They explained the plan for the State of Tennessee. Veteran makes application for "On the Job Training" and they approve the shop he is going to work in. If they can place a man they do it with out hesitation. I plan to contact Mr. Freeman Monday.

I visited the State Supervisor of Trade and Industrial Education, G. L. Rasson. He and his assistant were out of town. Had a talk with his staff, who were very courteous and helpful. They promised to help me in any way they could. On the Farm Training is a comparatively new thing in the State of Tennessee. They are trying to get it started. You have the plan of operation that I sent you. Applications for "On the Farm Training" are coming in very slow for white and Negroes.

Had a talk with Giles Hubert concerning "On the Farm Training". His opinion is that the State of Tennessee has no plan of operation. He will gather all the available information on the subject for me. He sends his best regards to you and Mrs. Mitchell.

I visited your friend, Mr. Holtam who was very happy to know where you are. He had heard that you were working with the Southern Regional Council. He pledged his support and promised to lecture to the Middle Tennessee Teachers Association that is meeting here in April. His office is no longer connected with the Veteran Administration. He states that he has plenty of money to lend and wanted be very happy to help a Negro Veteran. No applications have been made for loans by Negro Veterans; only a few from white veterans. I am sure he will be a big help to me.

I visited Mrs. Harrison, who is the director of Social Services at Meharry Medical College. I told her about "On the Job Training" and "On the Farm Training". She reaches a number of people whom we are trying to reach. She said she wanted tell all the public Health Nurses about "On the Job Training" and "On the Farm Training" and have them to pass the word on to the people and tell them to see their Veteran Affair Officer.

I visited the director of the State Veterans Service Committee who is also

the head of the U.S. Employment. He was out of town. Had a very long talk with his assistant who is Paul Jessen. This office is in charge of finding places for the Veterans to train. He pledged his support and will place Negro Veterans. Before he joined this office he was working for the Rosenwald Fund. I'm sure he will be a big help to our program because he travels throughout the state.

Thursday I visited Mr. Gray, who is the editor of Nashville Globe as well as the Chairman of the U.A.H.C.P. I explained to him my mission. He is familiar with the Council, I asked him what would be the best approach to the people we need to reach. He also stated that the NAACP printed pamphlets on the G.I. Bill of Rights. He is going to run a picture in the paper showing a trained on the job. He will print any material that we supply him concerning the program.

I visited the chairman of the Local Draft Board and discussed fully with him my mission and the program. He stated that it is one of the finest things he has heard of and said it is too bad that there are not more doing the same thing. He will urge the Veterans who consult him to take the fine opportunity that is offered them.

I talked with Mr. Stanley Hemphill who is the owner of one of our largest Printing Press, concerning "On the Job Training". He admitted he knew very little about the program. He asked who paged him for this time. I tried to show him how he would benefit and also benefit his people, before I left he promised he would read material concerning "On the Job Training

I visited a man who owns three pool rooms and two beer taverns I am sure he reaches the men we are trying to reach. I explained "On the Job Training and "On the Farm Training" to him. He said he would urge the men to see their Veterans Affairs Officer.

In one place I visited the first question the director asked me was "what part of the country was I from". When I told him I was born and reared in Tennessee and educated in the south we became friends. He also asked me if I was from the Federal Government. After telling him about the Southern Regional Council with headquarters in Atlanta

and told him about the council from this he drew the conclusion that I was a good Negro and could be trusted.

Friday I visited Veterans Employment Representative whose director is Paul Savage. He and all his staff were out of town, could see him Monday.

I visited the American Legion ~~Serv~~ Service Officer who is also State of the State Department of Veteran Affairs. All of his staff is out of the city. From a few inquiries I have made it seems as the American Legion is running the Veterans administration in the State of Tennessee. I have an appointment with the Commander of the Negro Post who is our family physician I am sure I will be able to find out how the American Legion fits in with Veteran administration.

I visited Rev. Zema Hill who is the minister of one of our largest church and a leading undertaker. I told him of our program, he said he would ~~take~~ make a talk on it in his church and urge the veterans to see their Veterans administration Officer.

I visited Mr. Galloway who is the principal of Pearl Senior High School which is the only Senior High School for Negroes in Nashville. I told him my mission. He will pass the word to his faculty who will in turn pass it on to the students and tell them to tell the Veterans to see the Veteran Affairs Officer. This is really the grape vine. He arranged for Mr. Hattam to speak to the Teachers association. Mr. Galloway carried me through the new trade school, it is one of the finest in the country I understand they plan to let Veterans use it at night.

Had a long talk with Mr. Nixly who teaches ~~classes~~ diversified Vocations in the high school, he explained the program to me.

I visited Mr. Alfred Galloway who is the director of the Napier Courts there are 2,500 people living in the courts, I explained my mission, he said he would pass the word and tell them to see the Veterans Affairs Officer.

I visited Mr. Carl Chavis who has a large grocery store in a large Negro community told him my mission and

asked his help. He said he would pass the word on and urge them to see their Veteran Affairs Officer.

I visited Mr. Bonnie Cotton who is the owner of a grocery store and Beer Parlor in the 13th Ward, most of the men in that section hang out at his place. I explained my mission and asked him to pass the word on and tell them to see their Veterans Affairs Officer.

I visited Rev. S. L. Morris. He is the chairman of the ministers Alliance of the city, in their next meeting he will tell them about "On the Job Training" and On the Farm Training" urge them to see the people to pass the word on.

I visited Mr. A. Price, the president of the Citizen National Bank, I told him my mission and asked his help. He will pass the word to the people who deal with his bank and I said I could put a display in the lobby.

I visited the manager of the Atlanta Life Insurance company, H. C. Dunn. He is very familiar with, "On the Job Training" there are eight men training in his office, he will see his staff to pass the word on. This coming Tuesday there will be a meeting of the personnel of the Negro Insurance Companies I have been invited to attend. I will reach a large number of people at this meeting, every one has some type of insurance.

After leaving the Union. I visited Mr. Henry Allen Boyd, the chairman of the National Baptist Association and runs the publishing house. He is the Editor of his weekly paper. Mr. Boyd will print any material we send him free of charge. Mr Boyd will also mention "On the Job Training" and On the Farm Training" and urge the people to see the Veteran Affairs Officer.

This coming Monday I have two appointments with men who contract organization that are not fully accepted by the public. I know them very well, I am sure they will be able to reach the people we are trying to reach. I still have a number of people to see in this area, leaving Friday for Clarksville and West Tennessee, badly in need of material to pass out, would like to make a few pictures of boys from Tennessee on training, "On the Job" and On the Farm"

Yours very truly
Marcus H. Tucker

Field agent
gunter

April 4, 1946

Mr. Marcus H. Gunter
916 First Ave., South
Nashville, Tennessee

Dear Mr. Gunter:

When and if you get to Memphis, please call on my friend, H. L. Mitchell, 166 Monroe Street; telephone, 5-6228 (no kin to me). He runs what was the Southern Tenant Farmers Union, which now has another name - about farm labor. He has good ideas about on-the-farm training, and you can help each other.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

PAUL D. WILLIAMS, RICHMOND
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Symbol 5

Field agent quarter

Southern Regional Council, Inc.

ROOM 432, 63 AUBURN AVENUE, N. E. ATLANTA 3, GEORGIA

A Council to attain, through research and action, the ideals and practices of equal opportunity for all peoples in the South.

April 6, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Room 432, 63 Auburn Ave., N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Sir:

Monday, I visited Mr. C. E. Freeman, the State Director of Vocational Education. I discussed fully with him my mission. He states that everything is being done in their power to get "On the Farm Training" really moving. Several meetings have been held by the Vocational-Agrculture teachers and they are to urge the veterans to take advantage of the "On the Farm Training." He discussed fully their program and what is being done for the Negro veterans. They plan to build some more trade schools for Negroes. He was particularly pleased with the new Negro Vocational Trade School here in Nashville, and went on to say how much the equipment cost. Mr. Freeman tried to impress upon me the fact that there was no discrimination practiced in the Veteran set-up.

After leaving Mr. Freeman, I visited Mr. G. L. Passon, who is in charge of "On the Job Training" for the State of Tennessee. I discussed my mission with him also. He had read the pamphlet I had left at his office on "The Job Instruction Offered G. I's. Mr. Passon said that it was the best written explanation of "On the Job Training" he had ever read. We had a long talk about Negro veterans. Mr. Passon told me there were twenty-five men training out in West Nashville with a white business. Mr. Passon approved a cabinet making shop last week to train ten Negro veterans. I sincerely believe he is trying to carry out his program. He is to speak at the Teachers' Meeting next week; his subject will be "On the Job Training."

I visited Mr. Theodore Acklen, who owns two night clubs. I told him about "On the Job Training" and "On the Farm Training," and asked him to pass the word on to all the people he comes in contact with, and tell them to see their Veteran Service Officer.

I visited Mr. Horne, who is the manager of the Andrew Jackson Courts, a Negro housing project. There are 1,500 Negroes living in these apartments, and at least 175 veterans. Mr. Horne told me he has contact with the veterans of his project on the average of once a month. He said he would pass the word on about "On the Job Training" and "On the Farm

Training," and he will urge them to see their Veteran Service Officer. The manager has planned to discuss "On the Farm Training" and "On the Job Training." I am sure Mr. Horne knows the need for trained men, because for the past three weeks he has not been able to find any carpenters.

I visited Mr. Eugene Price, who is the owner of one of our largest drug stores. I told him my mission and asked him to pass the word on and urge the men to see their Veteran Service Officer.

I visited Dr. A. M. Townsend, who is the Secretary of the Baptist Board. He was very enthusiastic about my mission, and said he would include "On the Job Training" and "On the Farm Training" in his lectures. Dr. Townsend is also the Secretary of the Sunday School Publishing Board. There are no veterans training in his Publishing House. After my conversation with him, I sent a veteran up to see him about training as a Linotype operator. I am afraid Dr. Townsend will have to hire him. I hate myself when I take advantage of people.

Tuesday, I visited the Veterans' Employment representative, whose director is Paul Savage. I found Mr. Savage very hard to talk to. After telling him my mission and about the Southern Regional Council, he still wanted to know what was the Southern Regional Council. I tried very hard to explain the purpose of the Council. Mr. Savage said that he would like to have some literature from the Council so he could tell just who I was. He said a number of times an organization looked good on paper but might be working for Mr. Stalin. Mr. Savage was born and reared in Ripley, Tennessee. For some reason he had the impression that I was interested only in "On the Farm Training." I gave him a copy of "The New South," and he asked me to write my name, address, and phone number on the back of the copy. I will send you his address and leave it up to you to send him some of our literature. However, Mr. Savage did say that any time I had a problem and needed his help, to come and see him. His assistant, Mr. Brocker, is a very fine fellow. He told me what they were doing concerning the veterans. I discovered that mass meeting are held each week in some counties, on the G. I. Bill of Rights. Six to eight speakers from Nashville attend these meetings. Mr. Brocker urged me to tell the people to attend these meetings.

In Nashville, there are two U. S. Employment Offices; the office for whites is located in the Cotton States Building; the office for Negroes is located on Second and Union. The Negro veterans of Nashville feel that since they have a separate office for veterans, they would prefer this office headed by Negro personnel.

I visited Tenessee State College and had a long talk with Mrs. R. Patillo, who is the adviser for veterans at Tennessee State College. Mrs. Patillo told me there are thirty-six veterans enrolled in vocational trades at the College. She states that these men are below college freshman level; most of the men are around the eighth grade level. In my travel I tell the veterans about the courses offered at Tennessee State and advise them to write Mrs. Patillo for information.

I visited Mr. Flowers, who is the director of Agriculture at Tennessee State College. I told him my mission, and found that he is very much interested in the Farm Training Program. From him I secured a complete list of all the Negro Vocational-Agriculture instructors. They have had several meetings with the white County Agents on "The Farm Training Program." They are pushing the program throughout the State of Tennessee.

I visited Mr. John E. Fordan, who is the secretary for the Elks and for the Masons. I told him my mission and asked him to tell the men about "On the Job Training" and "On the Farm Training," and urge them to see their Veteran Service Officer.

I visited Rev. J. C. Johnson, who is the Presiding Elder for the Methodist Church. I told him my mission and asked him to pass the word on to the ministers about "On the Job Training" and "On the Farm Training" and urge the men to see their nearest Veteran Service Officer.

Wednesday, I visited Mr. R. E. Clay, who is the Director of the Negro Division of the State Board of Education. Mr. Clay travels throughout the State of Tennessee, visiting the Negro schools. I told him my mission and discussed fully with him "On the Job Training" and "On the Farm Training." Mr. Clay said he would tell all his audiences about the program and urge them to make use of the fine opportunities offered and see their Veteran Service Officer.

I attended the meeting of the managers of the Negro Insurance Companies. I fully discussed "On the Job Training" and "On the Farm Training" with them. I asked for suggestions to put the program over. All of the managers pledged their support. I am sure they will reach a number of people.

I visited Mrs. L. E. Moore, who is the principal of the Providence Training School. Providence is a Negro community about twelve miles from Nashville. Mrs. Moore will contact each veteran in the community and tell them about "On the Job Training" and "On the Farm Training" and urge the men to see their Veteran Service Officer.

I visited Mr. Jasper Patton, who is one of our leading undertakers. I told him my mission. Mr. Patton is also a preacher and head of the Negro Elks here. He is calling a special meeting Wednesday to tell the men about "On the Job Training" and "On the Farm Training." Eighty percent of the members of the Elks are World War II veterans. I leave with each person I contact a copy of the article you wrote for the Norfolk Journal and Guide "On the Job Instruction Offered G. I's. I feel this will enable them to understand "On the Job Training" and "On the Farm Training."

I visited Mr. William Ford, who is the chairman of the Principals' Alliance. I told him my mission. Mr. Ford will tell all the principals about "On the Job Training" and "On the Farm Training" and ask them to call a meeting of their P. T. A. Associations and invite Veteran Service Officers to discuss the G. I. Bill of Rights in full.

Thursday, I went to Gallatin, Tennessee. Gallatin is the county seat of Sumner County. The program is really moving in this county. There are a large number of veterans training under the two programs. Mr. Fuller is the Service Officer and has the respect of the entire community. Before going into the Service, he was the Mayor of this town. I had a very long talk with him. The man is doing such a good job that all I have is praise for him. He invited me to visit him any time I am in Gallatin. Tuesday, a mass meeting was held for the community to explain "On the Job Training" and "On the Farm Training." The majority of all the Negroes in the community attended this meeting.

I visited Mr. Gray, the Vocational-Agriculture instructor. Mr. Gray is pushing "On the Farm Training." He is very well read on this program and is doing a great job in his county.

I visited Mr. Rucker, who is the principal of the high school. Mr. Rucker is a veteran. He is familiar with the program and is advising the veterans to take advantage of it.

I visited Mr. Hodge Winston, the owner of the dry cleaning plant in the city. He has two veterans training in his place and is urging all the others to take advantage of the wonderful opportunities offered.

I visited Dr. Wilson, who is the owner of a very fine drug store for Negroes. Dr. Wilson is familiar with the program and said he would urge all the men to take the wonderful opportunity offered.

I have found that there are still a large number of men contented to draw the twenty dollars per week, but I am sure the community leaders will be able to get these men to take advantage of the program.

I spent Friday and Saturday in Lebanon, Tennessee. Lebanon is the county seat for Wilson County. I visited Mr. Martin, who is the American Legion Service Officer and the Veteran Service Officer. I told him my mission and asked him if many Negro veterans were in training under the program. Mr. Martin told me he had a problem - there are no places for Negro veterans to train, because the white veterans are training in these places. He said some of the Negro veteran may think he is discriminating, but he was a fair man. He asked my help. He would like to get three or four well-educated Negroes to teach the Negro veterans trades. There will be a mass meeting there Tuesday. Mr. Martin said it would be nice if I could get the community leaders together and have some competent colored man to speak on the G. I. Bill of Rights. I said, "Mr. Martin, I think it would be fine if you spoke to them." Mr. Martin said that he would have a panel for Negroes at the mass meeting. Before I saw him, he had not planned to have a panel for the Negroes.

I visited William Manier, Post Commander of the Negro Branch of the American Legion. I told him my mission. He immediately called a meeting of his Post. I discussed "On the Job Training," and "On the Farm Training" with the veterans and urged them to file application for "On the Job Training" and "On the Farm Training. Mr. Martin will really have

a problem.

I visited Mrs. Norris, who is the County Supervisor. I told her my mission and asked her to pass the word on and urge the men to see their Veteran Service Officer.

I visited Mr. Thomas, who is the principal of the high school, as well as the Vocational-Agriculture instructor. Mr. Thomas will push "On the Farm Training."

I visited Professor Ballard, who is the principal of the grade school. Mr. Ballard is also the Secretary and Treasurer of the American Legion. I explained my mission to him and asked him to urge the men to take advantage of "On the Job Training" and "On the Farm Training."

I visited Dr. Clover. I told him my mission. Dr. Clover will work with the leaders in putting over this program.

I visited Mr. Ben T. Carruthers, who is the undertaker and owner of the cemetary. Mr. Carruthers will pass the word on and organize the leaders into a group and work out something for the men.

I visited Mr. Carter, who is the County Agent for Wilson County. I told him my mission. He will push the "On the Farm Training" program. Mr. Carter told me all the agents in Wilson County had had a meeting. "On the Farm Training was discussed fully.

Sunday, I have a meeting here in Nashville with a group of veterans. Monday, the Legion is meeting. I will attend this meeting. Tuesday, I will be in Clarksville, from there to Paris, Union City, Newbern, Dyersburg, Covington, Memphis, Somerville, Bolivar, Jackson, Brownsville, Humbolt, and Milan.

Will you please send me fifty copies of your article, "On the Job Instructions Offered G. I."? Any criticisms or suggestions that you have to offer on the report will be greatly appreciated.

Yours very truly,

Marcus H. Gunter

Marcus H. Gunter

MHG:o

PAUL D. WILLIAMS, RICHMOND
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Field agent

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A Council to attain, through research and action, the ideals and practices of equal opportunity for all peoples in the South.

April 13, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Room 432, 63 Auburn Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Sir:

I spent Monday in Nashville visiting var[illegible]erans for information. On a whole I found most of the veterans are contented to draw twenty dollars per week, that is my number one problem. The American Legion had a call meeting. "On the Job training" and "On the Farm Training" was discussed fully. I spoke to the men on these two phases of the G I Bill of Righ[illegible] and urged them to take advantage of the opportunity offered. One veteran [illegible] white businesses would allow Negroes to train at their places. I told hi[illegible]e some of them would train Negroes if they asked and told him about a man in We[illegible]e who was training twenty-five Negro veterans. The trouble is few have as[illegible] Negro veteran will never know unless he tries.

I visited Mr. Harper, the Director [illegible] Vocational Education at Tennessee State Teachers College. I discussed fully with him my mission. He travels throughout the state of Tennessee. Being a Vocational man he knows the need for trained Negroes. Mr. Harper will do everything in his power to push our program, he asked if I would help his program by sending men to Tennessee State who have trouble finding places to train. None of his classes are full.

Dr. Mitchell, he is trying to find a man to teach Vocational subjects, if you run across anyone who might be interested [illegible]sk them to write me.

I spent Tuesday and Wednesday in Clarksville, Tennessee . Clarksville is the County seat for Montogomery County. I visited Mr. James H. Lacy, who is the Veterans Service Officer. Mr. Lacy is now with U. S. Employment Division, his secretary is now the Veterans Service Officer. She is well informed on the G. I. Bill of Rights. I told her my mission and asked her if many Negroes were in training under this program. She states that there are two training on the job at a white garage. "On the Farm Training" is very slow, as yet they haven't received application blanks from Nashville but expect them any day. I had found this same situation in a number of the counties. When I left her office she thanked me for coming to see her.

I visited Mr. Allison, Post Commander of the Negro Branch of the American Legion, Mr. Allison was out of town. I had along talk with his wife. I told her my mission and asked her to tell her husband I had called.

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I visited Mr. N. M. Sales, who is the Post Adj. of the American Legion. I told him my mission. Mr. Sales told me Mr. Allison and Dr. Purnell had discussed the G I Bill of Rights fully with the men. There are one hundred and fifty (150) World War II veterans in their organization. Mr. Allison is the Service Officer for the Post. I have known Mr. Allison and Dr. Purnell for a long time, both are well qualified to do the job.

I visited Mr. George Trice, who is the owner of a cafeteria and baseball club, most of the veterans hang out at his place, he is also a member of the American Legion. I told him my mission and asked him to pass the word on and urge the veterans to see their veterans Service Officer. Mr. Sales told me he went down to the jail to bail a veteran out and the judge would not let him bail the man out. The judge said the man would not work and he was going to make him pay a fine out. I am sure the men need "On the Job Training" and "On the Farm Training" in this community.

I visited Mr. Brooks, who is the Principal of Burt High in Clarksville. He is familiar with both programs. I told him my mission. Mr. Brooks called a teachers meeting while I was there. I discussed fully with them "On the Job Training and "On the Farm Training", and told them the need for skilled labor and scientific farming, and told them to urge the people to push the veterans to take advantage of this program.

I visited Mr. James T. White, who is the Vocational Agriculture Instructor at Burt High Mr. White is an old friend of mine. He told me he has 38 veterans in the county lined up to take this training, all of them can qualify.

I visited Mr. Braham, who is the County Agent. He was out of town. I had a long talk with his secretary. She told me he has been pushing "On the Farm Training".

I visited Rev. R. L. Carter, who is the pastor of St. John Baptist Church. He has the largest church in Clarksville. I told him my mission. He admitted he had never heard of "On the Job Training" and "On the Farm Training". He realizes the need for skill labor and scientific farming. He will tell his congregation about the program at church services. Rev. Carter asked me the name of all the people I had seen. He is going to organize these people into a group and work out a definite program for the veterans.

I visited Rev. Hogan, who is the pastor of the Methodist Church. Rev. Hogan is a graduate of Hampton Institute. I told him my mission and discussed fully with him "On the Job Training and "On the Farm Training". Rev. Hogan will tell his congregation about the program and urge them to see their Veteran Service Officer.

I visited Mr. Miller, who is the Director of the USO. Mr. Miller is an old friend of mine from Camp Ellis, Illinois. He has contact with a large number of veterans. I told him my mission and he will urge the men to see their Veteran Service Officer.

I visited Mr. Foston, who is the owner of a very large cafeteria. He is also the owner of a large taxi business. There are a large number of veterans working for him. He will pass the word on and urge the men to see their Veteran Service Office.

I visited Mr. Roberts, the president of the Roberts, Ivie and Vance Funeral Home. Mr. Roberts will pass the word along about "On the Job Training" and "On the Farm Training" and tell the men to see their Veterans Service Officer.

I feel that the community leaders of Clarksville will push our program, Race Relation in Clarksville are very good.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

I spent Thursday in Paris, Tennessee. Paris is the County seat for Henry County. I visited Mr. James Huffman, who is the Veteran Service Officer. I told him my mission and discussed the program fully with him. Mr. Huffman has only been on the job a few weeks.

Mrs. Edith White Dreiss is the former Veteran Service Officer. Mr. Huffman told me "On the Job Training" is moving very fast but "On the Farm Training" is moving very slow. He hasn't received the application blanks from Nashville yet. Mr. Huffman is working with the Negro Vocational Agriculture teacher at the high school on the Farm Training program. Mr. Huffman admits there are a number of things about the G I Bill of Rights he doesn't know. At least he is frank.

After leaving Mr. Huffman I visited Mr. Guthrie, who is the Vocational Agriculture teacher at Central High School. Mr. Guthrie has been trying to get some information on the Farm Training program. I gave him the plan of operation for the state of Tennessee, he was very happy to receive this information. Mr. Guthrie is a former Captain in the army and has worlds of influence with the veterans in Henry County. He is the Adj. of the American Legion Post. I am sure he will push both of the programs. The American Legion is sponsoring a mass meeting for the community.

I visited Dr. Irvin W. Howell. I told him my mission. He told me he would pass the word on to the veterans and urge them to see their Veteran Service Officer. He told me Race Relationship was very good in Paris, the leading white men of Paris are very liberal. I am going to meet a few of them Sunday. Although while walking through the town with my breif case everywhere I looked eyes were on me. Maybe I should buy some overalls.

I visited Mr. George Combs, who is the owner of the Tip Top Cafeteria. I told him my mission and explained "On the Job Training" and "On the Farm Training" to him and asked him to pass the word on and urge the veterans to see their Veteran Service Officer.

I visited Mr. Walter McClure, who is the owner of the Brown Derby Cafeteria. Mr. McClure is very familiar with the program, there are two men training at his place. I explained to him my mission and he said he would urge all the men to take the wonderful opportunity offered.

I visited Mr. T. R. Wilson, who is the principal of Central High School. I told him my mission, "On the Job Training" and "On the Farm Training" was discussed. Two faculty members will be designated to help the men fill out their applications.

Friday, I was in McKenzie, Tenn. McKenzie is in Carroll County. There are a large number of Negro veterans around McKenzie. I visited Mr. J. L. Seets, who is the principal and Vocational Agriculture Instructor at Webb High School. Mr. Seets is also the County Agent for Carroll County and the Advisor on the problems pertaining to Negroes. I told him my mission and he knows the G I Bill of Rights very well and has contacted most of the veterans in the county. Sixty (60) applications for "On the Farm Training" have been filled out by him and a large number of applications for "On the Job Training". He is doing what I hope to accomplish in most of the communities. Mr. Seets told me he secured a list of the veterans from the Office of Selective Service and went out and saw each one and told him his rights as a veteran. He is trying to get the County to set up a trade school at Webb High for veterans. A fine job is being done by Mr. Seets.

At Huntingdon, a veteran returned to his old job at a Dry Cleaning plant as a presser. The veteran decided he would like to learn the dry cleaning business. The place was approved for "On the Job Training". His employer was paying him ninety dollars ($90.00) per month. When he started working under the program, the employer only paid him ten dollars ($10.00) per week. Mr. Seets is investigating the case.

I asked him how was the feeling between the races in west Tennessee. He told me since the Columbia Incident they were watching for outsiders who might be trying to organize the veterans.

I spent Friday afternoon and evening in Jackson, Tennessee. I met a very good friend of yours, Granderison S. Rivers, Supervisor of F. S. A. in Jackson. He has been active in this program for some time. He has all the latest information on the "Farm Training" program and "On the Job Training". There are fifteen (15) to twenty (20) men in his office each day seeking information. Five loans have been made to veterans by him, in a few weeks there will be more loans made.

I met Mr. A. M. Dobbins, who is the County Agent for Madison County. We discussed "On the Job Training" and "On the Farm Training" at length. He has been active for some time. He told me the Service Office in Jackson kept him up to date on the latest releases. There are fifteen (15) men training on the farm in Madison County. Mr. Dobbins has held meetings throughout the county for veterans. There were twenty (20) to thirty(30) veterans at each meeting. The G I Bill of Rights was explained to the men at all of the meetings. At the mass meeting held in Jackson for veterans, over fifty (50) percent of the veterans present were Negroes. I asked him how many men were training on the job, there are few training in Jackson, he doesn't know the exact number but will have this information for me on the 15th when I visit Jackson.

My Fraternity is sponsoring a Community Service Office for veterans in Jackson. I am trying to get some more community service offices started.

Received your memorandum of April 8th and your letter of April ~~7th and~~ 11th, today. When I reach Knoxville I will go by and see Mrs. Cannaham. I will be in west Tennessee for at least two more weeks.

Yours very truly,

Marcus H. Gunter

Marcus H. Gunter

Field agent

April 11, 1946

Mr. Marcus H. Gunter
916 First Avenue, South
Nashville, Tennessee

Dear Mr. Gunter:

I had a letter from Myles Horton at the Highlander Folk School recently. He said that on a trip to knoxville he talked with Mrs. Mary Carnahan, who suggested that we should look closely into the readjustment allotments for Negro veterans in Tennessee. Mrs. Carnahan is secretary of the American Legion post in Knoxville. She and her husband are good friends of mine. Bill Carnahan works for the Southern Farmer, which is Aubrey Williams paper in Montgomery. I don't know at all what problem thus is alluded to.

I suggest that when you are in Knoxville, you look up Mrs. Carnahan. Presumably she is to be found at the Legion office in Knoxville.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

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Field Agent
Gunter

April 24, 1946

Mr. Marcus H. Gunter
916 First Avenue, South
Nashville, Tennessee

Dear Mr. Gunter:

Many thanks for your letter of April 21st.

Memphis is a tough place, and I am glad you are working at it.

Of course Mr. H. L. Mitchell is welcome to reprint the article at any time.

Keep after the training schools Dyersburg.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

X

Field Agent

April 21, 1946 gender

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Room 432, 65 Auburn Ave., N.E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Sir:

Arrived in Memphis Sunday night. Monday morning I called on Reverend McDaniels, the directory of the Urban League. I explained my mission to Reverend McDaniels. For some time he has been working on the same problem with a committee from Lemoyne College and Mr. Mitchell from the Southern Tenant Farmers.

They have held series of conferences. No definite progran for veterans have been set-up. The first problem is getting the Negro businessmen to train Negroes. As you know everyone in Memphis is afraid of Ed Crump.

The veterans's Counsil at Lemoyne is going to send in suggestion s to the Veteran Administration Office in Washington to employ Negroes in the various Veterans' agencies. They feel the swiftest way is through head uarters at Washington.

I found the information you are seeking on the re-adjustment allotments for veterans in Tennessee. Mr. Mitchell states that this also exists in Mississippi. A veteran applies for the re-adjustment allotments, a job is found for him below his highest skill, in the majority of the cases he is offered a job digging ditches. Naturally the veteran is going to turn it down. After the veteran refuses to take the job offered, the re-adjustment allotments are stopped. I understand this is the policy of the U.S. Employment Agencies in Shelby County.

This coming Tuesday I have an appointment with one of the Veterans who lost his re-adjustment allotments.

I visited Dr. Walker, the Presidant of Universal Life Insurance Company. Mr. Walker states, that in all his lectures he has tried to impress upon the people the need for scientific farming and skilled labor. I explained to him what we were trying to do. He will push our program in every way he can. Believe i t or not there are no men training in the home office. I am going to try to get Mr. Walker to accept some men for on the job training.

After leaving Dr. Walker, I called on Reverend Kyles. ~~He is doing~~ the director of the "Good Will Institution". I told him my mission and explained "On the job Training" and "On the Farm Training." Your article "On the job Instructions Offered G.I.'s" will be read to his congregations.

I visited Mr. H. L. Mitchell on Tuesday. Thanks for telling him I would be by to see him. He had been expecting me for the past week. From him I secured some valuable information. He wish it was possible for you and all our field agents to meet at Memphis with him and compile our information and try to push the job through the Veterans' Administration in Washington. He is going to print some material for me and would like your permission to reprint "On the job Instructions Offered G.I.'s". He feels the C.I.C. will push our program and will arrange for me to meet the directors Tuesday morning.

I found out through Reverend McDaniels that there are two high schools teaching veterans vocational subjects from three in the afternoon to nine in the evening. The equipment is very good, the instructors competent, but there are men who will be waiting for 18 months before they can enter the school, due to the lack of space and instructors. The two schools are Booker T. Washington High School and Manasau High School. The instructors who teach the high school students also teach the veterans.

In my next report I will have the information on the whole set-up. There are a number of peiple in Memphis who can push our program but it is going to be a very hard job to find people you can talk to. Most of the people are afraid of Ed Crump.

Mr. Mitchell told me that the only two offices that were safe in Memphis to talk were the C.I.C. and the Southern Tenenants Farmers' Union. I am going to run some pictures in the Memphis World showing Colored Veterans training on the job. There are three organizations in Memphis I can depend on for help, The Urban League, The Committee at Lemoyne and The Southern Tenant Farmers Union.

I spent Wednesday and Thursday in Dyesburg, Tenn. I visited Mr. M. L. Morrison , who is the Principal of Bruce High School. Mr. Morrison is in Nashville attending the Teachers' Meeting. I talked to L.D. Blackburn, the assistant Principal and the instructor of Manual training. Mr. Blackburn had never heard of "On the job Training".

He states that the officials have not sent any material to them. ~~He also~~ I explained "On the job Training" to Mr. Blackburn and showed him how he could help the Negro veterans by seeking information. I showed him the possibilities of having a trade school for veterans under his direction. They have quite a bit of equipment in the shop and could teach as many twenty men, cabinet making and general construction.

After leaving Mr. Blackburn, I visited Mr. Jerry Kizer, the director of the department of Veterans' affairs for the ninth district. Mr, Kizer states that in most instances "On the job Training" is moving fast, "On the Farm Training" slow. The committee is set up for "On the Farm Training.

In Gibson County there are 5,000 returned veterans and this is where they expect the program to really move. He is afraid that they will not be able to get in enough instructors. I doubted seriously if he intends to push the program for Negroes. While talking to him he never used Negro veterans or white veterans, so it was hard to tell what per centage of Negroes they intends to train under the program. He gave me the names of all his servicing officers and said all of them were competent veterans, and had pushed the program for both white and colored.

Mr. Kizer sent me over to see Mr. Parker Green, the Veteran Service Officerfor Dyer County, I told him my mission and asked him how "On the Fram Training" and "On the job Training" was going for Negro Veterans. He stated that he expected to have a number of men training on the farm. Right now it is pretty hard to get the men interested because they are drawing this money, they expect the men to apply for "On the Farm Training" about one month before their $100 self-employment runs out.

He stated "On the job Training" was just about impossible for Negro Veterans in Dyesburg. A number of them had been to see him concerning"On the job Training" and he feels sorry for the poor fellows. He has written the State Department trying to find trade shhools that take Negro Veterans through out the state. He asked me if I knew any place he could get them in shhool. I told him of Tennessee State, Hampton, Tuskegee, and Bordertown School for Boys and then suggested to him starting a school at Bruce High School. He has never thought of it and it was right in his back yard. He asked me if they had a man who could teach vocational training, I told him Mr. Blackburn was a graduate of Fisk and studied wood work and cabinet making at Hampton and was teaching Manual training in the school. With a little money he could enlarge his shop to take care of a larger number of men. He asked me to inspect the shop and to make a report to him and have the principal and Mr. Blackburn to come to see him. I am sure that he will work something out.

I feel that in these small communities learning a trade at a school is better than nothing and I am willing to compromise to that extent.

I visited Dr. J.W. Moore, the leading physician in Dyesburg and the President of the Urban League and chairman of the Community Center. I had a very long talk with Dr. Moore and told him the need for Negro skilled labor and scientific farming. Dr. Moore is going to have a mass meeting sponsored by the American Legion at the Community Center and invite Mr. Parker Green to be the speaker on the G.I. Bill of Rights.

I visited Mr. Threlkeld, the vocational-agriculture instructor at Bruce High. Mr. Threlkeld knew nothing about "On the Farm Training". He had received the plan of operation for the State of Tennessee but he did not bother to do anything about it because the County superintendant had not sent it to him. All of these people are afraid to even try to sell popcorn without permission from the superintendant.

I had a very long talk with Mr. Threkeld and showed him how he was failing his race. He promised me he would see all the Veterans who lived on a farm and try to get them lined up to take this training.

After leaving Mr. Threlkeld, I called on Mr. Davis, the County agent for Dyer County. Mr. Davis has read some material on "On the Farm Training," but had been waiting for the white county agent to tell him ~~for another county but some where he had a run in with superintendent.~~ For a long time he was stationed in Alamo as the County agent for Gibson County, they told him they didn't need a Negro County agent. So Mr. Davis said he was just tired of being defeated. But after talking to him he said he would push our program and I am sure we can count on him.

I visited Reverend A. L. Lilley, the presiding Elder of the C.M.E. Church. I discussed "On the Farm Training" and "On the job Training" with him and asked him to pass the word through out the county. I am sending him your article on "On the Job Instructions Offered the G.I."s. He will read this to his congregations in his district.

I visited Mr. H.H. Hudson, the leading undertaker and the owner of the cleaning plant. There are three boys training with Mr. Hudson, two in the cleaning plant; one in his undertaker establishment. The state of Tennessee will recognize apprenticeship training for embalming and allow them to take the Tennessee State Board.

I spent Friday in Ripley. Ripley is the county seat of Lauderdale County. There are a large number of Negro Veterans there and a number of land owners.

I visited L.C. Gillespie, the vocational agriculture instructor at Lauderdale County Training School. Mr. Gillespie is familiar with "On the Farm Training"program for veterans. They held a meeting in Ripley to set up the committee for "On the Farm Training" and Mr. Gillespie attended this meeting with the county superintendant, "On the Farm Training" and "On the job Training" was explained to all present.

Itold him my mission and asked him to push the program in the county. While I was at his house, Professor Rhodes came in. Mr. Rhodes is the highest ranking Mason in this city and runs the lodge there. He is going to sponsor a mass meeting with the Amerigan Legion for the community and have the Veteran Service Officer to speak on the G.I. Bill of Rights. Most of the returned veterans who are farmers are drawing the $100 self-employment per month and waiting for it to run out before applying for "On the Farm Training.". I Tried to find Mrs. L. Seet, the county supervisor of Negro Schools, she was out in the county. Mr. Gillespie is sure she will work with him since they work together all the time.

I called on Reverend L.W. Seward, the president of the Urban League. I told him my mission and explained "On the Farm" and "On the job Training to him and asked him to push our program and work with Mr. Gillespie and the Masons in promoting a mass meeting. The principal of the high school was at the Teacher's Meeting at Nashville but Mr. Gillespie is the assistant Principal.

I visited Dr. Tony. Dr. Tony is very interested in Negro veterans. He has been trying for some time to get them interested in the G.I. Bill of Rights. He said that for the past two weeks a number of veterans have been slapped by the city police. These men generally get too much beer to drink on Saturday night and he feels that our program will keep them off the street.

I arrived in Jackson Friday night. I attended a mass meeting sponsored by the Veterans of Tennessee, a new organization that was recently chartered here in Jackson. There are about 200 members. The Commander and Vice-Commander are two intelligent fellows, but I feel they need a more definite program.

I am going to try and interest them in joining up with the A.V.E. In the meeting, they were trying to get a park for Negroes. I was called upon to say something. I read to the audience your article "On the Job Instructions Offered G.I.'s" and stressed the need for skilled labor and scientifi farming. While speaking they did'nt know what organization I was representing. I am going to have a series of conferences with the Commander and Vice Commander and try to ineterest them in pushing "On the Job Training" and "On the Farm Training." The Jackson Citizen is going to run some pictures for us showing men training on the job and on the farm.

Will work Jackson Sunday and Monday and leave for Memphis. Received my mail from your office a few minutes ago, thanks for summary of the meeting.

Yours very truly,

Marcus H. Gunter

Marcus H. Gunter

April 24, 1946

Fieldgent Gunter

Dear Dr. Mitchell.

I had a long talk with Mr. T. J. Estes, who is the Commander of the Tennessee Veterans. He is interested in the A.V.C., most of the negro veterans in Madison county of members, they have a charter in Jackson.

I sincerely beleive the entire group would be an asset to the A.V.C.

Spent the afternoon with Mr. H. Price, who is the President of Leymone College. In one of my letters, I told you about their committee several meetings have been held by the group. They are trying to get a trade school here in Memphis for negro veterans but dont know who to write in Washington. Do you know any one who could help them.

He has had the plensure of meeting you and would appreciate any suggestions you have to offer.

Yours very truly
Marcus H Gunter

Field Agent

April 29, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Room 432 63 Auburn Ave. N.E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Sir:

While in Jackson, I called on Dr. Yarbough, who is the president of Lane College. He is very interested in the veterans, at one time he was affiliated with the Urban League. We had a long discussion on the problems of the Negro veteran. "On the Job Training " and "On the Farm Training " was discussed, through him I was able to form a committee, with the leading citizens of Jackson as members, they pledged to push our program.

I found that few of the Negro business men understood "On the Job Training ". Most of them had been contacted by the veteran Service officer, but it seems they failed to put the idea over. A number of them told me, the men had not asked them for employment, each of them told me how many men they could train. I turned this information over to Mr. Estes.

I called on Mr. Estes, who is the commander of the Tennessee Veterans Association, he is also a member of the committee. He knew very little about "On the Job Training and"On the Farm Training". After discussing the two programs with him, he realized that these two programs would reach 80% of his members. In this work you really learn about people. I knew I would have to let Mr. Estes think every thing was his own idea. He will push our program through his organization, when they called on the Veteran Service officer, he implied that an outside influence had caused them to organize, and he was going to check the organization.

After leaving Mr. Estes, I called on Rev. E.M. Beasley, who is the editor of the Jackson Citizen. I explained my mission to him. In all his meetings "On the Job Instruction offered G.I.'s will be read. His paper is a member of the N.A.P. Your article will be runned to-day in the paper. I am also running two pictures in his paper this week. One of a fellow training on the Job and one on the Farm. I tried to find a Jackson boy to put in the paper but I did'nt find one training "On the Job that would be impressive enough, I am running a picture from Atlanta. I was able to find a Madison County Veteran for on the farm training. I will send you a copy of the paper and a couple of the pictures. While I was at Rev. Beasley house he called Mr. Hunt, who is the owner of a dry cleaning plant, and asked him if he had any veterans training. One veteran had been to see him they wanted him to pay

the veteran twenty-five dollars per week and they would supplement eight dollars per week, this does't sound right to me. I am sure Reb. Beasley heard him correctly.

I visited Mr. A.J. Payne, who is the principal of the high school. I told him my mission, and asked him pass the word on to his faculty and pupils. No Manual Training is taught in the High schools.

I visited Rev. Bailey, who is the chairman of the Methodist Minister Alliance, He will tell all the members of the Alliance about."On the Job Training " and "On the Farm Training".

I visited Rev. S. M. Jackson,who is the chairman of the Baptist Minister Alliance "On the Job Training" and "On the Farm Training" was discussed fully. At there next meeting, he will pass the word on to the minister.

I visited Mr. G.F. Porter, who is the president of the civic League I told him my mission. He will contact all the business men. A number of them can train some men but as I said, before they are a little reluctant due to the governments red tape.

I feel that the committee will push the men in Jackson Negroes and white veterans use the same office in Jackson.

I met with the committee in Memphis Wednesday morning, the situation here is very bad for Negro veterans, they have the same set-up as Nashville, separate offices, they are very nasty,few of the men will go to the office for information,the committee is trying to get an office staffed by Negro personnel. Mrs. Maney was here Tuesday, she is the wife of the publisher of the Washington Post, she said, she would use her influence to help the Negro veterans here.

I spent Wednesday taking pictures of veterans training on the Job. I found two men training at Johnson Printing Company, both pictures will appear in the Memphis World . Mr. Johnson, who is the owner of Johnson Printing Company has been approved to operate a printing school.

I visited Mr. Blair Hunt, who is the principal of Booker T.Washington High School. Veterans are going to school there. They teach wood work, radio, break mason, and auto mechanics, there are 135 men enrolled. "On the Job Training " and "On the Farm Training was discussed. At my meeting with Mr. Hunt the faculty was called together and "On the Job Instruction offered G.I.'s was read to the faculty, they were told to pass the word on to their students.

I visited Mr. J.A. Hayes, who is the principla of Manassas High School. Veterans are also training there. I told him my mission and asked him to pass the word on about"On the Job Training and "On the Farm Training".

I visited Mr. T.O. Fuller, who is the manager of LeMoyne Courts. There are a large number of veterans living in the court. I told him my mission and asked him to tell the people about "On the Job Training" and "On the Farm Training, and urged them to see their veteran Service officer.

After leaving Mr. Fuller, I called on Mr. W. Otes, who is the manager of the Fotte Courts. I told him my mission, I have found that few people know about On the Job Training. Most of them feel it is the Veterans Administration responsibility. After talking to them I was able to make them see it is a community responsibility. Mr. Otes, will pass the word on and urge the men to see their Veteran Service officer.

I visited Mr. W. Nabors, who is the manager of the Dixie Courts. There are a large number of veterans living in the courts. He will tell all men about "On the Job Training" and urge them to see their Veteran Service officer.

Dr. Venson and I had a long discussion on Job Training and Farm Training. He is the promoter of the Negro Cotten Jubille and has a great deal of influence with the men around Beale Street. He is also the commander of the American Legion. At their next meeting he will discuss "On the Job Training"and "On the Farm Training.

I called on Mr. Lewis Johnson, who is the president of the Junior Chamber of Commerce. I told him my mission and discussed with him the Negro business men's obligation to the Negro veteran, I told him we could not expect other businesses to train our men, unless we made an effort.

I visited Mr. Beauchamp, who is the president of the Senior Chamber of Commerce. I told him my mission and asked him to pass the word on about, Job training and Farm Training. He will also line the Negro business men up.

I visited Mr. Hancock, who is the District Manager of the North Caroline Mutual Insurance Company. "On the Job Training and "On the Farm Training was discussed. He will tell all his collectors, to pass the word on about Job Training and Farm Training.

I attended a meeting at the home of B. G. Olive, who is one of the Vice-presidents of Universal Life Insurance Company. At the meeting there were a number of Negro business men and leaders. "On the Job training " was discussed. These men can push our program and I am sure they will.

I attended the first meeting of the committe in Jackson Sunday.They called on Mr. Critter, the veteran service officer and asked him to provide training facilities for Negro veterans.There is a possibility of a trade school in Jackson. If they can find compentent Instructors

the school will be started.

Most of the farming area in Shelby County is at Wood stock. The county agent and the vocational Agriculturial Instructors are stationed there. I will spend Wednesday at WoodStock.

There are still a numbe of people I have to see here. I should finish Somerville, Whiteville, Alamo, Milan and Dixon by the eighth of May and then I will head for East Tennessee.

I met a fellow from Mississippi by the name of Martin Taylor, he said, the condition for veterans in Mississippi were worst than Memphis. He is white and a member of the S.C.U. Here is the name of a lady who may be able to help the agent in Mississippi. Mrs. D. Black, Director,Delta Council,Stoneville, Mississippi I understand, she is almost a liberal. Send Mr. H.Price at LeMoyne a membership application blank.

I attended a meeting with Mr. A.M. Dobbins, out in the county, there were a group of veterans from Haywood county present, they will pass the word through out the county. I had a long talk with Mr. Al. Ross, the leading undertaker in Brownsville. He will pass the word on about Job Training.

Yours very truly,

Marcus H Gunter

Marcus H. Gunter

MHG:slw

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Southern Regional Council, Inc.

ROOM 432, 63 AUBURN AVENUE, N. E. ATLANTA 3, GEORGIA

Field Agent Quarter

A Council to attain, through research and action, the ideals and practices of equal opportunity for all peoples in the South.

May 5, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Room 432, 63 Auburn Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Sir:

I am sure my trip to Memphis has not been in vain. The people with whom I talked pledged to push our program. It is my policy not to get tied up with committees, but the one at Leymans has been meeting for some time without any definite program. I felt it was a grand opportunity for me to get them to push my program. They are going to call on the Mayor next week. I am sure Reverend McDaniels, who is head of the Urban League, will send me a report of the meeting.

I visited Mr. H. Twigg, who is the vice-president of the Union Protective Insurance Company. I told him my mission. He is familiar with "On the Job Training." The company has been approved for job training. He is going to write all the district managers and tell them to give me all the assistance they can.

After leaving Mr. Twigg, I called on Reverend Owens. He is the leading minister in Memphis and a former chaplain in the Army. I discussed the two programs with him. He will tell his members about the program and urges them to tell the men to see their Veteran Service Officer.

I visited Mr. T. H. Hayes, who is one of the leading undertakers of Memphis. Mr. Hayes is an old friend of mine from overseas. I talked to him a long time about job training and farm training. Two men are to start training at his place next week. He will push our program and tell the men to see their Veteran Service Officer.

I visited Mr. J. A. Beauchamp for the second time, and with a new idea. In my last letter I told you he was the chairman of the Negro Chamber of Commerce. I asked him to canvass the city and see how many Negro businesses would train veterans, and see how many could qualify with the Veterans Administration, then work with the chairman of the white Chamber of Commerce and see how many white businesses will train Negro veterans, compile this information and turn it over to the Urban League for use.

I called on a number of the ministers. Most of them were attending various conferences, but I did see Reverend Brewster, who is a member of two Ministers' Alliances. He will pass the word on to a number of the ministers and tell them to tell the men to see their Veteran Service Officer for information on job training and farm training.

I visited Mr. Arnold, who is the superintendent of the Friendly Clinic. They have a number of bed patients from rural areas, and a large number of the citizens use the clinic. I discussed "On the Job Training" and "On the Farm Training" with him. He will pass the word on and put the address of the Veteran Service Officer on the bulletin board. I left a "Pulse" in the sitting room.

I visited Mr. Lee, who is the district manager of the Atlanta Life Insurance Company. I told him my mission, and asked him to pass the word on to his collectors, or tell them to tell the men to see their Veteran Service Officer for information on job training and farm training.

I spent Wednesday afternoon visiting various pool rooms, chatting with the men about "On the Job Training," in an informal way, of course. Some of the men had heard of job training, but most of them knew very little about it. I told them I had been up to see the Veteran Service Officer and would start training next week. By the way, my new name is Jimmie Morris.

Thursday Mr. Beauchamp carried me out to Brunswick, Tennessee. Brunswick is in Shelby County and a Negro Community. Mr. Gray is the principal of the high school. Mr. McVane is the vocational-agricultural instructor. Mr. McVane had a Plan of Operation for the State of Tennessee and had attended a meeting held in Memphis where "On the Farm Training" was discussed. He admitted he had not pushed the program. I discussed "On the Farm Training" with him and Mr. Gray. They promised they would call on each veteran in the community and see if he knew about the program. I told them other vocational-agricultural instructors knew how many men in their community could qualify. I will have to write both of them at intervals to keep them interested.

After leaving Brunswick, we went to Log Cabin; there I met a number of veterans. I am very careful when talking to veterans. They may say I said something I did not say. These men will reach the other veterans in this community and tell them to see their Veteran Service Officer for information covering "On the Farm Training."

I spent Friday in Woodstock, Tennessee. Mr. Roddy is the principal and the vocational-agricultural instructor. He is a very able man. I told him my mission. We discussed the farm training program. There are eight veterans training on the farm at Woodstock. They appointed two men in Shelby County as instructors; both are white. A man by the name of Stratton is in charge of the Negro veterans. I was not able to get much "dope" on him, but I do not believe they are going to appoint a Negro. Mr.Roddy is a little more optimistic than I. There is a veteran from Shelby County who finished Tennessee State College this year, and he is hoping that they will appoint him. He is going to have a meeting with the veterans and discuss "On the Farm Training."

Mr. Roddy introduced me to Mr. Brown and Mr. Brazzell. Mr. Brown is the County Agent and has been for twenty-five years. A burden on the State, Mr. Brazzell is his assistant. I told them my mission. We discussed "On the Farm Training" program. Both of them knew the program. Mr. Brown told me they told him to tell the men about farm training, but give no other information. Mr. Brown is doing exactly this; however, I did get a chance to talk to Mr. Brazzell alone. Both of these men told me all the veterans knew about the program. About that time a veteran walked up. I asked him if the men knew about the farm training program. His answer was "No." Mr. Brown did not believe it. Mr. Brazzell and I road through the county and it was found that few of the veterans knew about the program. My friend felt sorta bad. We had a long talk and he promised he would push the program from now on. He is going to keep in contact with me.

Saturday I visited my good friend Reverend McDaniels to find out if he knew of any discrimination in formal apprenticeship. He said he knew it was there in Memphis, but impossible to get the facts. There is one fellow who may be able to get this information. I am writing him today. In my travel, I will be on the look-out for information.

I visited Mr. Hayes, who is the principal of Manassas High School. Through the grape-vine, I found out he was Mr. Crumps No. 1 man. I called on him only to find out if he thought they would build a trade school for Negroes in Memphis. He feels that the community leaders should ask the Mayor for a Technical High School; if turned down, go on to Nashville. I passed this word on.

Fifteen magazines were placed in Memphis. They are in places where people gather.

I have some very important business to attend to in Nashville, Monday, leaving Nashville Monday for Gibson County. I should reach Chattanooga on the 15th. I will probably spend a day with your people. Will write to find out if you will be in town.

Thanks for the cards.

Yours very truly,

Marcus H. Gunter

Marcus H. Gunter

MHG:o

Field agent

May 7. 1946

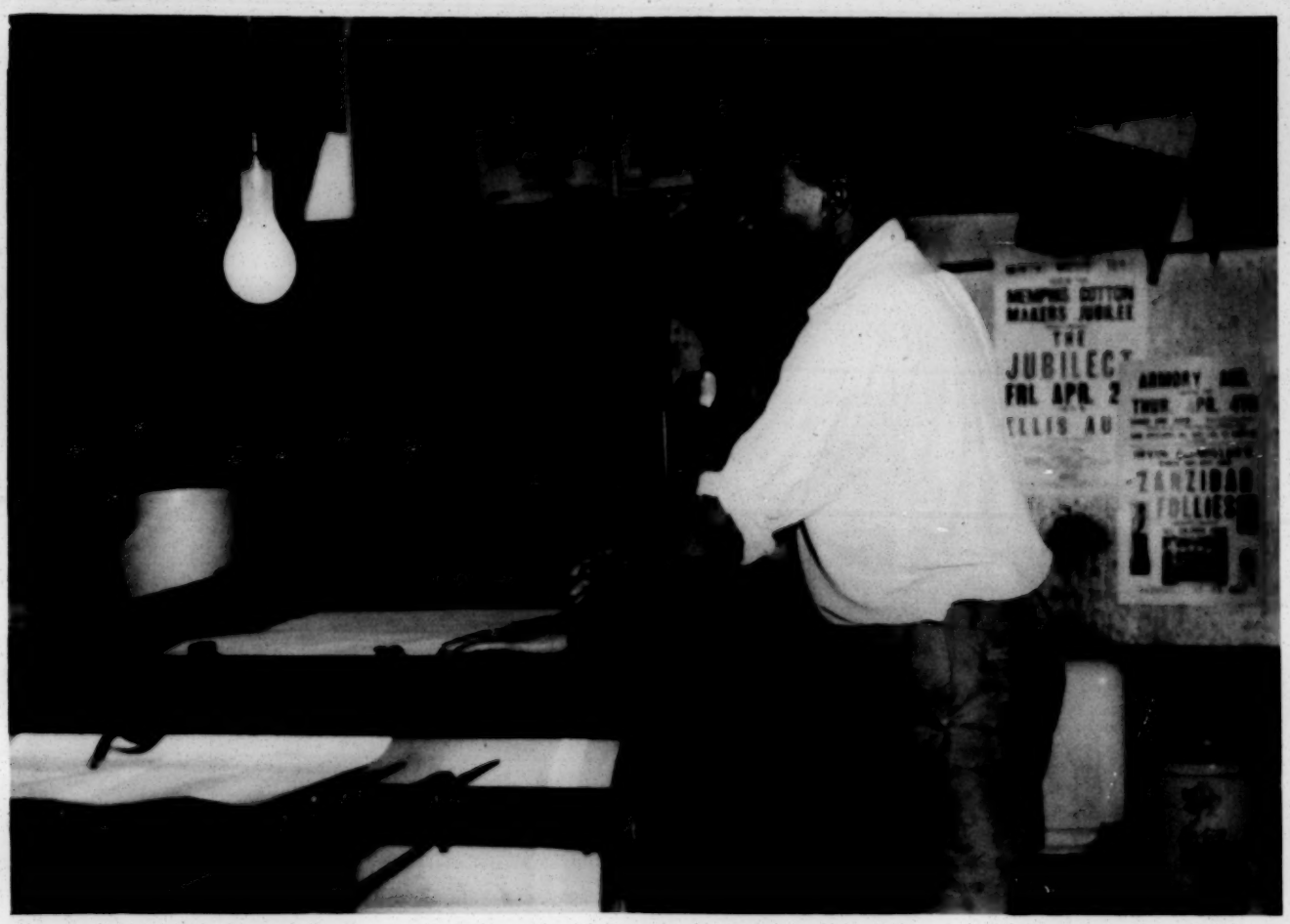
Dear Mr. Mitchell;

I am sending you two pictures of veterans training on the job. These pictures will appear in the Memphis World next week. Mr. L. O. Swingler, the editor, will be glad to help our program. In the future, we can use his paper for an outlet.

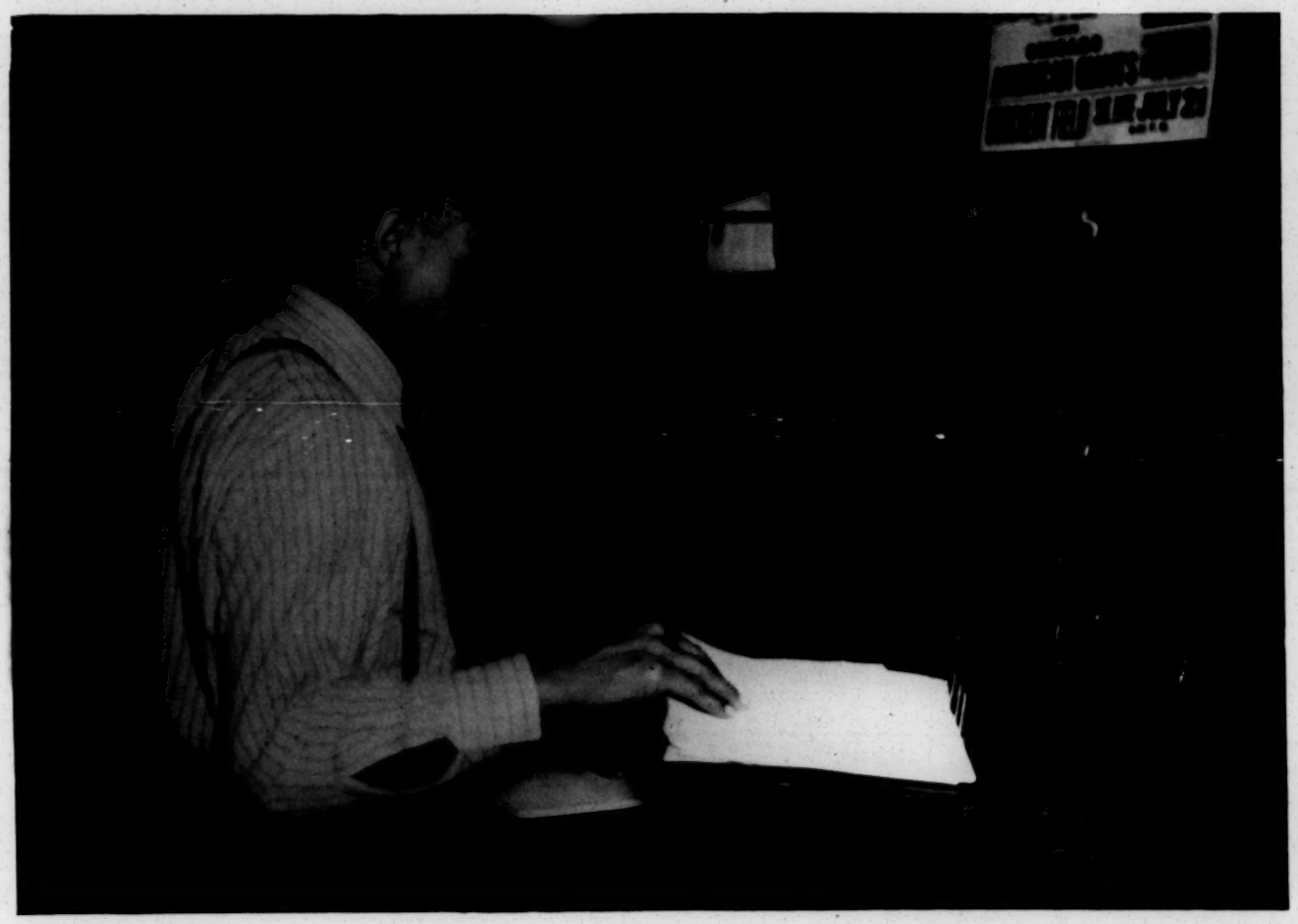
Thanks for the "Pulse" magazines, and the information on job training.

Yours very truly
Marcus H. Gunter

L. O. Swingler,
Editor: Memphis World
388 Beale Avenue
Memphis, Tennessee



Operating the Cylender Press. Roland W. Gilder of 378 B. Wellington Street, Memphis, Tennessee is training On-the-Job to be a printer at Johnson Printery in Memphis. A former Sp (S) 2nd Class in the Navy, Roland receives $90.00 per month supplemental pay from the Veterans Administration in addition to his learner's salary.



Operating the Platen Press. John Lester Jr. of 862 Malma Street, Memphis Tennessee, is training on the Job to be a printer at Johnson Printery in Memphis, Tennessee. A former Musican 2nd Class in the Navy with twenty months oversea service. John receives $90.00 per month supplemental pay from the Veterans Administration in addition to his learner's salary.

Nashville, Tennessee
May 14, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Room 432, 63 Auburn Ave., N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Sir:

When I arrived in Nashville last week I found my mother very ill hence the delay in sending my report. Yesterday I was told she would be home late this afternoon.

Spent Tuesday in Milan; Milan is in Gibson County. The Veteran Service Officer is in Milan only on Monday. I called on the Mayor, but found him out. I met Mrs. Black, Director of the U. S. Employment Office. She is really a fine lady; am sure she is doing everything she can for Negro Veterans. She told me of a case where a veteran had worked at the ammunition plant before entering the service, when he was discharged he asked for his job back; he was told his job had been filled. Pressure was put on from Mrs. Black and the veteran got his job back. We discussed job-training and farm-training. The committee has been set up for farm-training. At the present, they are advising the men to draw the $100.00 per month self-employed compensation.

There are only two Negro veterans training on-the-job in Milan; one is learning to be Chef Cook at the hotel and his employer is paying him $80.00 per month; the V A is supplementing $90.00 per month. Most of the veterans are working at the plant. Mrs. Black said job-training would be better for the men because at the plant they could not learn any thing that would be of use to them five years from now. She told me she would push job-training.

After leaving Mrs. Black, I called on Mr. Hartsfield who is the principal of the High School. I told him my mission; "On-the-Job-Training" and "On-the-Farm-Training" were discussed. No vocational agriculture is taught in the school neither, is there a Negro County Agent in Gibson County. Mr. Hartsfield told me he was sure few men knew about job-training and farm-training. During my stay in the City he visited all the places with me. He told me he had been advising the men in the County; he was fairly familiar with job-training and farm-training. He promised to get the names of all the returned veterans and go see them personally.

I visited Mr. Gill, who is owner of a large merchandise store in town. I told him my mission. He is going to have the Civic League to sponsor a program for the veterans; he said he would push the program. I was surprised to learn that Milan had a Negro Civic League but I understand they are quite active.

I visited Mr. A. Roberson who is the owner of the only Negro Barber Shop in Milan. He is an ex-G.I. We discussed "On-the-job-training" and "On-the-farm-training". He will pass the word on to the veterans and urge them to see their Veteran Service Officer. I left a copy of the "Pulse" in his shop.

I visited the Cafe and talked with a large number of veterans and told them to see their Veteran Service Officer for information concerning job-training and farm-training. A few of them told me they were having a hard time getting the $20.00 per month readjustment allotment because there were plenty of jobs at the plant. A few of the men are in Memphis learning a trade.

I talked to both of the leading ministers. I explained "On-the-job-training" and "On-the-farm-training" to them and left with them a copy of "On-the-job-Instruction offered GI". I asked them to read it to the members of their churches.

Milan now has a new Mayor. All thepeople say he is a good man. I am sure the Civic League will be able to push our program with his help.

From Milan I went to Humboldt; it is also in Gibson County. I arrived there at the beginning of the 'strawberry festival'. I called on the Veteran Service Officer and found him out; talked with his secretary and she said everything is being done for Negro veterans. I talked to a number of the veterans, most of them said they were being pushed around; in other words, when they went to theoffice for information they were met with cold shoulders.

I visited Mr. Cunningham who is the leading Negro business man. Here is an interesting story about him. He worked at a hotel for a long time; the hotel was put up for sale, he bought the hotel; it is the only Colored hotel in that section. He carried me over to a Legion meeting; I met the Post Commander and the Adjutant at the meeting. We discussed job-training and farm-training. The men knew very little about the program. I found the same thing existing in the section here as in the others; lack of proper guidance. The Commander teaches manual training in the High School. After showing him thepossibilities of starting a trade school he became very interested. I am sure he will push the program now.

I had a long talk with Mr. Glenn, the past Adjutant, who is the Counselling Officer. I discussed both programs with him. He promised me he would get the names of all the veterans and try to get them interested in the program. They are having a meeting on the 21st of this month and the veteran service officer is

speaking. His subject will be "Job-training" and "Farm-training."

I visited Mrs. Vance who is the owner of the only Negro Drug Store in the County. I told her my mission. I explained "On-the-job-training" and "On-the-farm-training" to her. She has an ex G. I. working for her. This man is learning the business. I asked her why he wasn't training under the program, she asked me, if I was sure he could do this. I told her I was positive; she said she and the veteran would go up to the office the next day. This lady knows everyone in town and can push our program. When I left her she said this "At least some one is trying to help our people."

I visited Mr. Seward who is the principal of the High School. I told him my mission and asked him to pass the word on through his school and urge the men to see their Veteran Service Officer.

I visited Rev. King who is one of the leading ministers. "On-the-farm-training" and "On-the-job-training" were discussed. He promised to pass the word through his church.

I visited Rev. Osborne. I told him my mission and asked him to pass the word on through his church. He told me there are twenty-veterans in his church, he will talk to each of them. Both of these ministers are young men and interested in the welfare of the people.

I called on the Veteran Service Officer in Almo which is in Crockett County, but found him out. I had a long talk with his office staff. They said the committee is all set to go and that a large number of Negro veterans would qualify for farm-training. There are two men training-on-the-job.

I visited Mr. E. D. Brown who is the principal of the High School and the Vocational-Agricultural teacher. I told him my mission. He had attended a meeting where the two programs were discussed. He has the names of most of the veterans who can qualify. He told me he asked for application blanks three weeks ago but at that time there were none in the County. Most of the men, White and Colored, are drawing $100.00 per month, ~~were drawing~~ self-employment compensation. He asked how he could get the program started. I told him through the County Agents and the other vocational-agricultural teachers. At the commencement exercises he told the people about job-training and farm-training and asked them to pass the word on.

I visited Mr. Koonce who is the F. S. A. Director in Haywood County. I told him my mission. He said most of the men would get farm-training in Haywood County; his son will be one of the Instructors. The committee is set up in Haywood County but so far none of the veterans, white or colored, are training-on-the-farm; they expect to start this coming July. He promised

me he would push both of the programs in Haywood County. He can do it if he will. I am really going to stay on him.

I visited Mr. Koonce, Jr who is the Post Commander. I told him my mission. "On-the-job-training" and "On-the-farm-training" were discussed. At their next meeting he will tell the men about the two programs and will invite the Veteran Service Officer to speak to the men.

From Alamo I went to Whiteville; Whiteville is in Hardiman County. I called on Mr. A. White who is the principal of Allen and White Institute. He has more power in Henderson County than any other Negro. I told him my mission. We discussed farm-training and job-training. He has a perfect setup for a trade school, plenty of room and equipment. I am sure he will try to get the V A to approve his school. There are eight veterans training-on-the-farm in Hardimen County - one training-on-the-job. While I was there he called the students to the chapel and told them to tell their families about "On-the-job-training" and "On-the-farm-training" and to have the men to see their Veteran Service Officer.

I spent Friday in Somerville; Somerville is the County seat for Fayette County. The Negroes outnumber the Whites there three to one. I called on the Veteran Service Officer and was told he was only in Somerville once a month, believe it or not, this is true. I went in the Court-house before I could return to the school they called and wanted to know who I was.

I visited Mr. Hamilton who is the principal of Fayette County Training School and the Vocational-Agricultural Instructor. I told him my mission. He showed me a list of the men who could qualify for farm-training and had in his possession a number of applications that had been filled out. They are having trouble getting additional application blanks. The veteran service officer isn't in town long enough for them to catch him. You know the answer on job-training - there are no places for Negroes to train. Mr. Hamilton is going to push the program.

I visited Rev. Lewis. I told him my mission and asked him to pass the word on through his church about job-training and farm-training.

After leaving Rev. Lewis I called on Mr. Williams who is the F. S. A. Supervisor. I told him my mission. He admitted he did not know much about the program. I explained both to him and asked him to work with the County Agent in putting this program over. He is an old classmate of mine and I am sure I can count on him.

I spent Saturday in Lexington; Lexington is the County seat for

Henderson County. I visited Mr. R. Roberson who is the vocational-agricultural Instructor. I told him my mission. He told me he had attended a meeting where "On-the-farm-training" and "On-the-job-training" were discussed. I asked him if he knew the men who could qualify. His answer was "yes" but he had not contacted them because he was told it would be July before the program started moving. The two of us called on Mr. George Tillman Stewart who is the Veteran Service Officer. I told him my mission. He told me he had tried to get the names of all the Negro veterans and asked Mr. Roberson to get them for him. He impressed me as being a fine man and would help the Negro veteran. The white veterans have been training-on-the-farm since April. He said he wish he could get the Negro veteran to take advantage of this program. I told him I doubted if they knew about farm-training and job-training. He asked Mr. Roberson to call the men together so he could speak to them. There are three men training-on-the-job. Two Negroes have been approved to teach auto mechanic and welding.

I visited Mr. Barnes who is the principal of the High School. I told him my mission. He will pass the word on and tell the men to see their Veteran Service Officer. Before leaving Lexington Mr. Roberson promised me he would contact all the veterans in Henderson County. There is no County Agent in Hardiman County.

Monday, I went to the well-known City of Columbia. On my way there I picked up a discharged veteran. I asked him how was Columbia these days. He said it was the best City in Tennessee since the misunderstanding between the races. I arrived in Columbia at 8:30 and called on Major H. A. McKee who is the Veteran Service Officer, presented my card to the lady at the desk. Mr McKee got up and came over and shook my hand and invited me to sit down. I told him my mission. He said you are interested in the Negro Veterans. I said yes. I asked him about job-training and farm-training. He said, you and I can be frank with each other. He said "On-the-job-training" for Negro veterans was almost impossible. He told me he would like to see more Negro training-on-the-job. There are two training, but places where others could train would not take them. He told me he would work with any committee in trying to open up some of these places to them. On-the-farm-training for Negroes is moving very fast.

I visited Mr. Jones who is the principal of College Hill High school. He is also the vocational-agricultural instructor. He is approving the men for the Veteran Service Officer; when they go to the Veteran Service Officer he sends them to Mr. Jones. A good job is being done by him.

I visited Mr. Blair who is the owner of the only Negro Drug Store. I told him my mission and asked him to pass the word on about job-training and farm-training.

I visited Mr. Sol Blair who is the owner of the Blair Barber Shop and Commander of the American Legion Post. I told him my mission. I explained "On-the-job-training" and "On-the-farm-training" to him and asked him to pass the word on and tell the men to see their Veteran Service Officer. He still has more influence with the men than any one else in Columbia.

I called on Mr. Morton but found him out.

I visited Mr. E. K. Ryan who is the owner of the Ryan Taxi Company and funeral home. He is also the Commander of the Global Veterans Association. I told him my mission and asked him to pass the word on about job-training and farm-training. When I see you next week I will tell you something about him.

I had a meeting with four of the ministers. I explained On-the-job-training and On-the-farm-training to them and asked them to pass the word on. All of them pledged to push the program. The Legion is going to sponsor a mass meeting and have Major McKee to speak.

Received a letter from Professor Rhodes from Ripley, Tennessee. The mass meeting was held on the 14th; the Veteran Service Officer explained job-training and farm-training to the people.

Very truly yours,

Marcus H Gunter

Marcus H. Gunter

Field agent

May 17, 1946

Mr. Marcus H. Gunter
918 First Avenue, South
Nashville, Tennessee

Dear Mr. Gunter:

Many thanks for your good report of May 14th.

I look forward to your visit to Atlanta. The three days when I will not be here are May 22, 23, and 24.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

F

New Martin Hotel
204 East Ninth Street
Chattanooga 3, Tennessee
19 May 46

Dr George S Mitchell
63 Auburn Avenue, N E
Room 432
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Sir:

Tuesday night, I attended the monthly meeting of the American Legion, while enroute to Murfreesboro, I talked to a veteran who lives there. He told me, he had tried to find a place to train as a welder and found that this type of training was not available for Negro veterans in Rutherford County. At the meeting, "On The Job Training" and "On The Farm Training" was discussed, I found that few of the men knew about the program. In most cases, the service offices for various Post's are not qualified to give information. The Post Commander pledgees his support in pushing the two programs.

I visited Mr Fount Pitts, who is the office manager of the U S Employment office. I told him my mission, and in our discussion I asked him how many places were approved for job training, there are 95 approved for job training in Rutherford County, only four Negro veterans are training on the job. Mr Pitts told me Rutherford County was a agricultural county, but yet there are 95 approved places for the job training. He did say, he would try to place Negro veterans in some of the places.

After leaving Mr Pitts, I called on Mr W R McClean, who is the office manager of the Veteran Administration contact office, I told him my mission, "On The Job Training" and "On The Farm Training" was discussed. He told me that training facilities for Negroes in Rutherford County are limited. In our discussion I told him, all veterans must be trained, because it was the only way the south could advance. He said he would see the mayor and the couuty superintendentand see if they couldn't provide training facilities for the men at the high school. All of these people say there is no discrimination practised.

I visited Mr G S Kersey, who is the vocational agricultural instructor at Holloway High School, I told him my mission. He attended a meeting where "On The Farm Training" was explained. The program is moving very slow in this county. The committee is set up. Mr Kersey is a member of it. No Negro Veterans are training on the farm. He had in his possession two applications, and he admitted, that men did not know about the program, and said he had been very busy, the day I was there, he found time to go fishing. I gave him a very good lecture.

I have known him for years. He said, that he would contact these men and get them started. I will call on him in June to see if he kept his promise.

I visited Mr Butler, who is the county supervisor of Negro schools. I explained the two programs to him. He travels through out the county and comes in contact with most of the farmers. He is very valuable because there is no Negro county agent in Rutherford County. I am sure, he will pass the word on to the men.

I visited Mr S G Green, who is the principal of Holloway High School, I told him my mission, I asked him to pass the word on through his school and urge the men to see their Veteran Service Officer.

I visited Rev W M Donaldson, who is the pastor of the First Baptist church - "On the Job Training" and "On the Farm Training" was discussed. He said he would help in any way he could, in all his meetings he will tell the people about job training and farm training, and urge them to see one of the agencies for imformation.

I visited Mr Williams, who is the collector for the Atlanta Life Insurance Company, I told him my mission, and left with him a copy of "On The Job Instruction Offered G I's" He will pass the word on and urge the men to see their veteran service officer.

I visited Dr Chambridge, who is the only Negro physician in Rutherford County. "On The Job Training" and "On The Farm Training" was explained to him. He will pass the word on and urge the men to see their veteran service officer.

I spent Thursday and Friday in ~~Shelbyville~~. Shelbyville is the county seat for Bedford County, Shelbyville, has a population of 10,000 and is a industral county. Most of the factories employ Negroes. I arrived there at Six-thirty in the morning. Every in-coming bus was full of farmers who worked in the factories. I do not think there are many people farming.

I visited Mr Engles, who is the former service officer, he resigned three weeks ago. I told him my mission. Very few veterans, white or colored, have asked for farm training. It is his opinion, the men do not want to farm. He told me that most of the men of both races are drawing the readjustment allotments and are contented. I ask him if the program had really been pushed, his answer was no. The committee for approving farm training has not been set up.

Service

After leaving Mr Engle, I called on Mr Kimmery, who is the Veteran Service Officer for Bedford County, it is impossible for any veteran to get proper guidance from this man. I admit he is new on the job, and during my interview with him he asked me a number of question covering the G I Bill of Rights, I told him he should buy a veteran hand book. At heart he is a good man, but does not understand the problems of the Negro. I am going to send him a list of Negro schools.

I visited Mr Sidney Harris, who is the principal of Bedford County Training School. I told him my mission. He is familiar with both programs, no vocational agricultural is taught in Bedford County. In January he made an application for a trade school through the county superintendent, he realize that training facilities for Negro veterans would be needed, no answer has been received. He has checked on his application and was told to look for an answer any day. He will push both programs, in the city, and in the county, and urge the men to file applications.

Mr Harris and I, called on Mrs Thomas, who is the office manager of the U S Employment office. I told her my mission. In the conversation, I asked her how many men were training on the job? and what percentage were Negroes. I also asked her what type of training was available for Negroes. There are 70 men training on the job, only four percent of them are Negroes. There are only three types of training open for Negroes, namely, Auto Mechanics, which is full, Brick Masonry and servicing, she went on to explain that servicing meant body work in garage. I am sure servicing means changing of tires, washing and lubricating. There is a large building program going on in Shelbyville. 15 Negro veterans are training with contractors, laying concrete blocks, while in the city I watched some of them work. Mrs Thomas said, she would trace Mr Harris application and would do everything in her power in pushing the school.

I visited Mr W M Massey, who is the Post Commander of the American Legion. "On the Job Training" and On the Farm Training" was discussed. He admitted, he did not know much about the program. He promised me he would call a meeting and have the service officer to explain the programs to the men, the legion is also going to sponsor a mass meeting for the people.

I visited Dr. Wilson, who is the Post Service officer, there were three farmers in his office, while we were talking. "On the Job Training" and On The Farm Training" was discussed fully. He promised to push both programs through the legion and through his patients.

I tried to show the farmers the advantages of the farm training program, I also told them about On The Job Training and on the Farm and the $100 per month self employed compensation. I asked them to pass this word on to the farmers and tell them to see their veteran service officer.

I visited Mr Milton Cannon, who is the owner of a cafe, I told him my mission. He is familiar with both programs. The men we are trying to reach hang around his place. He will pass the word on and urge the men to see their veteran service officer. He is an ex G I.

I visited Mr T Bracey, who is the Assistant county agent and acting county agent. I told him my mission, he told me only one Negro veteran had asked for farm training. The program is very new in this county, and I don't think he knows very much about it. He said he

would push the program for the Negro Veterans as well as the white. There is no Negro county agent in Bedford county. I asked Mr Harris to push him.

I visited Rev D F Jones, who is the pastor of the A M E Church. I told him my mission. "On The Farm Training" and "On The Job Training" was discussed. Rev Jones will pass the word on to the other ministers and urge the men to take advantage of the wonderful opportunity offered.

Arrived in Chattanooga late Friday night. Saturday I called on Mr J H Templeton, who is in charge of the Department of Veterans Affairs for the third district. I told him my mission. "On The Job Training" and "On The Farm Training" are moving very slow for Negro veterans. There are no Negro businesses approved for job training hin Hamilton County, very few places are training white veterans, according to Mr Templeton. The American Legion is canvasing all the industries here trying to open places for veterans. I asked him if these places would be open for Negroes, he told me I should work with the Negro Post in trying to get the Negro business men to train the returned veterans. He told me that training facilities for Negroes were limited in Chattanooga I am sure I will be able to work out something with him.

Farm training is comparative new here, the committee for approving farm training has been set up, and that is all. They expect to start moving very soon. I will be able to get a clear picture of the situation here Monday.

After leaving Mr Templeton, I called on Mr R Dugger, who is the office manager of the Veterans Administration, I told him my mission. He was very interested in the S R C. I was asked how the S R C received their funds. I left with him a copy of the New South. He impressed me as being very interested in the Negro veteran. I talked to the training officer at the same time, he also said training facilities for Negroes veterans were limited. A very few Negroes are asking for training because they don't know about the program. I am going to ~~wpri~~ work the American legion, they are the only ones who can really push the program.

I will be in this area for eight days. I have South Pittsburg and Fayetville to do, while I am here.

Yours very truly

Marcus H Gunter

Marcus H Gunter

MHG:nba

Field Agent

May 31, 1946

Mr. Marcus Gunter
916 First Avenue, South
Nashville, Tennessee

Dear Mr. Gunter:

I saw Giles last Tuesday for a few minutes. I was glad to get the details about the "Fireside Chats" this summer.

I hope that both you and Harry Wright can go. I will cover your expense for the trip.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Tennessee Reports from Marcus H. Gunter, A Negro Veteran Traveling in the State.

April 6, 1946 - Nashville, Tennessee
Interview with Mr. C. E. Freeman, State Director Vocational Education

"They plan to build some more trade schools for Negroes. He was particularly pleased with the new Negro Vocational Trade School here in Nashville, and went on to say how much the equipment cost."

" " - Lebanon, Tennessee
Interview with the Veterans Service Officer, who is also the American Legion Service Officer.

"Mr. Martin told me he had a problem. There are no places for Negro veterans to train, because the white veterans are training in these places. He said some of the Negro veterans may think he is discriminating, but he is a fair man. He asked my help. He would like to get three or four well-educated Negroes to teach the Negro veterans trades. There will be a mass meeting there Tuesday."

April 13, 1946 - McKenzie, Tennessee
Interview with Negro County Agent

"I told him my mission and he knows the GI Bill of Rights very well and has contacted most of the veterans in the county. Sixty (60) applications for "on the Farm Training" have been filled out by him and a large number of applications for "On the Job Training". He is doing what I hope to accomplish in most of the communities. Mr. --- told me he secured a list of the veterans from the Office of Selective Service and went out and saw each one and told him his rights as a veteran. He is trying to get the county to set up a trade school at Webb High for veterans. A fine job is being done by Mr. ----."

April 21 - Memphis, Tennessee

Found two high schools teaching Negro veterans vocational subjects 3 PM to 9PM. Equipment good and instructors competent. "But there are men who will be waiting for 18 months before they can enter the school due to lack of space and instructors." Later he found people interested in pushing for a technical high school for Negroes in Memphis. Some evidence that approval and effort would be hard to get out of dominent political forces in the city.

April 29, 1946 - Jackson, Tennessee

"I attended the first meeting of the committee in Jackson Sunday. They called on Mr. Critter, the Veterans Service Officer, and asked him to provide training facilities for Negro veterans. There is a possibility of a trade school in Jackson. If they can find competent instructors the school will be started."

May 14, 1946 - Humbolt, Tennessee
Interview with a leading Negro businessman and member of Local Negro American Legion Post, also with two officials of the Negro post. The post commander teaches manual training in the high school.

"After hearing of the possibilites of starting a trade school, he became very interested."

" " - Whiteville, Tennessee
Interview with the principal of the local Negro Institute.

"He has more power in Henderson County than any other Negro. I told him my mission. We discussed farm training and on-the-job training. He has a perfect setup for a trade school, plenty of room and equipment. I am sure he will try to get the VA to approve his school."

May 19, 1946 - Murfreesboro, Tennessee
Interview with office manager of the Veterans Administration contact office.

"He told me the training facilities of Negroes in Rutherford County are limited. In our discussion I told him that all veterans must be trained, because it was the only way the South could advance. He said he would see the Mayor and the County Superintendent to see if they couldn't provide training facilities for the men at the high school."

" " - Shelbyville, Tennessee
Interview with principal of Bedford County Training School.

"In January he made an application for a trade school through the County Superintendent. He realizes that training facilities for Negro veterans will be needed. No answer has been received. He has checked on his application and was told to look for an answer any day."

June 4, 1946 - Chattanooga, Tennessee
Interview with two counselors of the Veterans Administration.

".....in an effort to find out what the Negro veterans were asking for. I was told most of them came in

hoping they could suggest something because they knew that training facilities were limited. The two Counselors I interviewed said the only solution for the men was formal training through vocational schools. They feel the Negro leaders should ask for a vocational school. This information was passed on to Negro civic leaders."

April 21, 1946 - Dyersburg, Tennessee
Interview with Veterans Service Officer.

"He stated 'On the job Training' was just about impossible for Negro veterans in Dyersburg. A number of them had been to see him concerning (On the job Training' and he feels sorry for the poor fellows. He has written the State Department trying to find trade schools that take Negro veterans throughout the state. He asked me if I knew any place he could get them in school. I told him of Tennessee State, Hampton, Tuskegee, and Bordertwon School for Boys and then suggested to him starting a school at Bruce High School. He has never thought of it and it was right in his back yard. He asked me if they had a man who could teach vocational training, I told him Mr. Blackburn was a graduate of Fisk and studied woodwork and cabinetmaking at Hampton and was teaching manual training in the school. With a little money he could enlarge his shop to take care of a larger number of men. He asked me to inspect the shop and to make a report to him and have the principal and Mr. Blackburn come to see him. I am sure he will work something out."

Field Agent

June 6, 1946

Mr. Marcus H. Gunter
916 First Avenue, South
Nashville, Tennessee

Dear Mr. Gunter:

Thank you for your fine report of June 4 from Chattanooga. Such a visit is richly worthwhile.

Here is a copy of a letter I just sent to Mr. Thomas in Alabama.

I believe Tennessee has a possibility of a similar development, though of course not so extensive.

Will you keep your eyes open, and when you can, let me know what are the hopeful and what are the limiting factors toward getting a number of Negro coordinators of trade training on the State roles?

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

July 2, 1946

MEMORANDUM TO: Marcus H. Gunter
FROM: George S. Mitchell

I need some information about training programs for Negro veterans. Please try to get it back to me by Monday, July 8th. Send it by wire if you have to.

What I want is your best guess as to the number of white veterans receiving respectively job training, institutional training, and farm training, and the number of Negro veterans receiving each, as of the end of June '46, in Tennessee.

Field Agent

July 3, 1946

Mr. Marcus H. Gunter
916 First Avenue, South
Nashville, Tennessee

Dear Mr. Gunter:

In going over some of the earlier reports, I am struck with the opportunity you found for the development of a trade school for Negro veterans at Bruce High School in Dyersburg.

What happened?

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Field Agent

August 22, 1946

Mr. Marcus H. Gunter
916 First Avenue, South
Nashville, Tennessee

Dear Mr. Gunter:

I suggest that you mail out these extra copies to such persons who in your judgment are most apt to get something done along this line.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Field Agent

August 9, 1946

Mr. Marcus H. Gunter
916 First Avenue, South
Nashville, Tennessee

Dear Mr. Gunter:

How do you get along?

I do hope you are by now up and about.

What shall we do about sick leave? Under the Council's rules you accrue sick leave at the rate of one day a month for each month's service. You came to work for us on March 22, 1946. You have therefore to date accrued five days sick leave. I suppose I should properly regard your flu case back in June as charging a number of days (six, eight, ten?) to the sick leave. You also get annual leave at a rate of one day a month. If you are running out of sick leave, I assume you want to charge continued illness to annual leave. As the sum of your sick leave and annual leave to date is ten days, we will have the problem of whether that is sufficient to keep you in pay status straight along.

Here is a sick leave slip and an annual leave slip. Please fill them out and we can calculate what to do. I should say that on days in the hospital when you do some hours of work for us, each such day should be considered as a day worked and not as a day that should count against your sick leave.

I miss your reports and am eager for them to resume.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

P. S. I think we are both entitled to regard the Saturdays and Sundays

that you have put in at slogging work as offsetting illness days. So take that into account when you calculate.

Field Report

July 3, 1946

Mr. Marcus H. Gunter
916 First Avenue
Nashville, Tennessee

Dear Mr. Gunter:

I am to be in Nashville July 9, 10, and 11 at the Institute at Fisk.

If you could so plan your travels to put you in Nashville for one or two of these days, it would give me an opportunity to talk with you firsthand about how things go in Tennessee.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Field Office

November 26, 1946

Mr. Marcus H. Gunter
916 First Avenue, South
Nashville, Tennessee

Dear Mr. Gunter:

Mr. Mulholland will be in Nashville Monday morning, December 2. I have asked him to take a cab out to your home, where he will probably arrive by 9:15 AM.

If it seems suitable to you, I suggest that you and he go together to the State Department of Education, and there let Mr. Mulholland, after consultation with the State officials and with you, decide what school he will inspect.

I should like it to be a representative school, not the best, not the worst, and for my purpose it would be better for it to be a school in a smallish place - say, a town the size of McMinnville or Dickson rather than a town the size of Chattanooga or Memphis. As you remember, I am more interested in something that has been started anew for veterans than in something with a long history. That would not exclude, however, a regular high school onto which trade training had been newly grafted for veterans.

It will be up to you to so arrange things that Mr. Mulholland gets free access to whichever school he decides on; that is to say, the clearance from the State officials.

I am sorry I missed you on your trip back through Atlanta, but I hope to get a chance to discuss with you later on what you found at Tuscaloosa.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Dec. 5, 1946

Mr. George S. Mitchell
Room 482 63 Auburn Ave N.E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Sir:

This afternoon I called on the lady you asked me to look up which I worked Knoxville. I found her in and introduced myself. She asked how you were. I told her you asked me to look her up. I asked her about the readjustment allotments for negroes. She acted as if she knew nothing about readjustment allotments for negroes.

Since you had sent me her name, I figured she was a friend of yours and wanted to be sure of me. I showed her the letter hoping this would put me in a position to receive some information, after reading the letter, she seemed quite disturbed, and asked to read the letter I only kept the letter so I would not forget to see her.

I feel I made a mistake in showing it to her and I am quite disturbed. However, there is something wrong with the allotments I will have to find it the best way I can.

My report is on the way.

Yours very truly
Marcus H. Sutter

December 15, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
63 Auburn Ave., N. E., Room 432
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Sir:

Very sorry I missed you on my way back from Tuscaloosa. Mr. Thomas was very helpful to me while I was there. I spent two days with the white and Negro coordinators. The standard salary is two hundred dollars a month, however the State of Alabama only payes the Negro coordinators $170.00. There are eight Negroes employed in the Birmingham area alone, which means there are approximately fourteen Negro coordinators in the State. From fifty to seventy-five men are assigned to each coordinator; it is his duty to check on each man - keep a progress chart on him. I found that most of the veterans bring all of their immediate problems to their coordinator.

These men must attend two three-hour classes per week, which are held at night in the high school. They bring their books and study individually, with the coordinator as overseer. He usually reads the evening paper. From my observation, I would say these classes are held only to make sure that the men study their text books. On the whole, The program is very good. The veteran is assured adequate training. The Negro coordinators were placed through the efforts of a chapter of the National Negro Veteran Association. Actually they bluffed the powers in Tuscaloosa; they claimed to have had 175 voting members, but Thomas tells me they only had forty-five.

There is another very interesting program going on in Tuscaloosa called "Continuous Education." Eighty men are enrolled. Let's say a man finished the fourth grade and through the years acquired enough knowledge to pass an eighth grade examination. If this man is a veteran, he is given an examination and placed in the nigth grade. The classes are at night. The State of Alabama gives the veterans credit for all the work they finish.

After leaving Tuscaloosa I visited Chattanooga to survey the vocational training program for veterans. I am sure there is nothing I can add to Mr. Mulhallona's report. When I made the survey, I carried the Commander of the American Legion Post. By carrying him with me, I was able to stir him into action. He immediately called the white commander. The white commander promised his full support. He is also on the staff of the Veterans Administration in Chattanooga. I do believe we will be able to get better vocational facilities in Hamilton County.

I have a survey going on in Chattanooga at the present. Questionnaires were sent out asking the men the type of training desired. Five hundred were sent out. With this information, I will be able to bring pressure on Mr. G. L. Passons. He has promised to help in any way he can. I was asked by him to send him a report on my findings in Tennessee. He is the State Commander of the American Legion and State Supervisor of Trade and Industrial Education for Veterans.

"On the Farm Training Program" is moving very slowly in Chattanooga. Had a long talk with the Vocational Agricultural instructor at the county school. It seems every one is drawing the $100 per month compensation. He believes the program will really move when the $100 runs out. I am sure the men know the program. Mr. Strange and I visited most of all the communities in Hamilton County.

Arrived in Knoxville from Chattanooga two days before Thanksgiving. I called on Mr.. Davis, who is with the T.V.A. He gave me a very good orientation on the pattern of Knox County. Through him I met the Commander of A. V. C. He pledged to give us every assistance he could. We worked out a few plans. The main plan is as follows: The A. V. C. is asking Paul Christopher, who is the head of the C. I. O. in Knoxville, to urge the shops and establishments that belong to the C. I. O. to train Negro veterans. Mr. Christopher is trying to do something for the Negroes in Knox County.

After leaving the Commander of the A. U. C., I called on Professor T. R. Davis, who is the principal of Austin High School. "On the Farm Training" and "On the Job Training" was discussed at length. While visiting Mr. Davis, I spoke before his faculty and urged the teachers to pass the information on to the people who live in their community.

Vocational training is offered to veterans at Austin High. This vocational school is the worse I have seen. Three courses are offered - Shoe Repair, Auto Mechanics and Woodwork. Over thirty-five men applied for shoe repair. They have space for only ten. What little equipment they have in this small bathroom is new and good. Eighteen men are enrolled in the Woodwork Department. Instructor, fair; no equipment. I believe they have two band saws. Auto-mechanics instructor, fair; no equipment. The practice shop has the beautiful sky for a roof. I cannot understand how citizens would let such conditions exist.

Nothing is being done for Negro veterans in Knoxville. There are between 25,000 and 30,000 Negroes in Knox County. Out of this number there were around 2,000 veterans who served in World War II. Eight hundred establishments are approved for job training in Knox County. Not over fifteen Negroes are receiving training on the job. It was impossible to get the exact number. The fifteen are receiving training in body work, brick masonry and auto-methanics.

On the farm training shows the same picture. Eighty men are in training. One Negro, five full-time instructors are employed and four part-time instructors from the University of Tennessee. I realized that few

Negroes were farming in Knox County, but it occurred to me that there should have been more than one. I spent a day out in a Negro community by the name of Sunrise. I found ten Negro veterans who were actually farming. These men knew very little about the program. I talked with them at length. Before leaving Knoxville, most of them signed up for the program, which means Negroes are not receiving proper information.

Knoxville is a town where white people call you "mister" but give you nothing.

I called on Mr. James S. Burnette, who is the director for the Department of Veterans Affairs of the second district. I explained my mission to him. He admitted that Knoxville offered very little vocational training for Negroes, but wanted me to know that all veterans were treated the same in his office. He promised to work with any committee I established in Knoxville. I pointed out to him the need of a Negro Service Officer. He will work with the American Legion in obtaining a Negro Service Officer.

I called on Mr. Fred Vance, who is in charge of the Veteran Division for the main office of the U. S. E. S. Negro veterans were discussed at length. I tried to find out the number of Negro veterans receiving training on the job. You know the familiar story. They have no way of tracing it down by races. However, he did tell me it was hard to place Negro veterans, because they were competing with white veterans.

Mr. Vance sent me to see Mr. C. L. Delaney, who is in charge of the Negro Branch of U. S. E. S., which is way across town. I told Mr. Delaney my mission. Job training and job apportunities for Negro veterans were discussed. His office is placing most Negroes as cooks and house boys and a few out at the foundry. I asked him about the readjustment allotments for Negroes and how were they handled. I asked if they tried to find a job at the veteran's highest skill level. This is his answer. They try to find a veteran a job at his highest level and ask him to do the same. If in four or five months nothing is found, the veteran is offered the next best job. My impression is this - if he fails to accept, he is cut off. This is the type of help he has. Upon entering the office I gave the lady at the information desk my card. She asked, "Are you a veteran?" I answered, "Yes." Then she asked me if I wanted a job. I talked to a number of veterans who say they were offered house boy jobs and when they would not accept them, they were cut off.

After leaving these agencies I had a pretty good picture of Knoxville and had something to work on. I spoke before the Paragon Club, Progressive Business Men's Club, American Legion and the Triads. All of these have the leading citizens as members. I urged these men to fight for better vocational training and a Negro Service Officer.

I called on Rev. Seay, who is one of the leading ministers. The need for better vocational facilities was stressed. Mr. Seay will work with my committee; he is a very able man.

I called on Mr. C. C. Reed, who is a official of the A. F. L. Carpentry Union. I told him my mission. He realizes the Negro veterans in Knoxville have nothing and is going to try to establish a carpentry school.

After leaving Mr. Reed, I visited Rev. A. J. Simmons, who is another leading minister. Here is his answer: "Give me the bullets and I will fire them." He helped defeat Gas Walker. He is on my committee of action.

I called on Dr. E. M. Carter, who is the owner of the Vine Street Drug Store. Vocational training, "On the Job Training," and "On the Farm Training" were discussed at length. He is serving on the committee.

I visited Mr. C. L. Hite, president of the Friendship Insurance Company, also the owner of the Negro Baseball Club. I explained my mission. Mr. Hite will work 100% with my program.

I called on Attorney C. A. Cowan, who is a Justice of the Peace for Knox County. He admitted he knew these problems existed, but knew not what to do. We discussed the possibilities for veterans in Knoxville. He promised his full support and is on my committee.

I visited Rev. D. A. Jackson, who has the largest church in Knoxville. He is also president of the N.A.A.C.P. All veteran programs were discussed. He is going to make a talk to his church on our program. The support of the N.A.A.C.P. was pledged.

I called on the owner of the College Radio Shop. He is willing to start a radio school for veterans. I am sure I can swing it for him through Mr. Passons.

My committee is working with the American Legion. The two main things they will push will be a vocational school and a Negro Service Officer for Knox County. The men on the committee are the best Knoxville has.

I spoke in Chattanooga Thursday night. My subject was "The Need for Skilled Negroes." Enclosed you will find a clipping from the paper. This coming Wednesday I am to see Mr. Passons. Thursday I am meeting with the committee in Knoxville.

When I was in Chattanooga sometime back, I told Mr. W. U. Johnson, who is the Commander of the Davis Legion Post, he should ask for a Negro Service Officer. He was very interested in this and felt it could be done. He found out that the white Service Officer was being paid $2,000 by the state, $2,000 by the county, and $1,000 a year by the Legion. This information was carried to the county judge. The judge agreed to pay $150 per month if they would furnish $50.00 and could find a good man. The Service Officer has been working two month. He is an excellent man.

The white Post helped also. I am trying the same thing in Knoxville.

Have a good Christmas!

Yours very truly,

Marcus H. Gunter

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____

MARRIED? _____ NO. CHILDREN? _____ NO. DEPENDANTS? _____

SERVICE SERIAL NUMBER _____

TYPE OF TRAINING RECEIVED IN SERVICE _____

CHECK BELOW THE TYPE OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING DESIRED:

AERONAUTICS ACETYLENE WELDING AUTO MECHANICS BLACKSMITHING

BRICK MASONRY CARPENTRY ELECTRIC WELDING MOULDING

MACHINE SHOP PRACTICE PRINTING PAINTING PLASTERING

PAPERHANGING PLUMBING RADIO ELECTRONICS TINSMITHING WOODWORKING

(ADD ADDITIONAL VOCATIONS DESIRED: _____

SIGNED: _____

Memphis
Jan. 7, 1947

Mr. George S. Mitchell
Room 432 63 Auburn Ave
Atlanta 3. Georgia

Dear Sir,

I am making my last rounds, to see what gains have been made in Tennessee. I am happy to report, they are better than I expected.

Mr. Parsons has been a big help. I will see him Sat. morning.

Thursday I will be in Hyges burg. Friday, ~~Nashville~~ Jackson. Sat Nashville. Sunday Chattanooga, Tuesday Knoxville.

If possible, I would like to receive my expense account Sat. at home.

You will receive my report in the next day or two.

Yours very truly
Gunter

Memphis, Tennessee
January 8, 1947

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Room 432, 63 Auburn Ave.NE
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Sir:

I know you are wondering where the heck I am. My report is ready, but I have'nt been able to find a typist in- All of them seem to be enjoying the holidays.

I arrived in Memphis Sunday night, January 5. Mr. Passon told me a few weeks back that he would try to help the situation in Shelby County. Thus far two new schools have been approved. A school in tailoring will be approved in the next week. I am to report to Passon's on my return.

Two white men have opened a trade school for Negroes here. A Negro who was a Major in the Air Corp has been employed as supervisor. The name of the school is, "The Boon-Higgins Trade School for Negroes". A ware-house was purchased by these men for $40,000. The floor space is 1100 by 500. It has been cleaned and painted and looks good. There are 3 instructor employed and the enrollment is 120 veterans; tuition is $450.00 per course plus $50.00 for tools which means these guys are making $54,000 per course.

The following courses are being offered: Auto Mechanics, Tailoring and Body and Fender work. A fourth course in Dry Cleaning and Spotting is in the making. (wonderful skills are'nt they ?) The school is divided into two classes with hours ranging from 8:00 A.M. to 1:00 and 1:00 to 7:00 P.M. The instructors did'nt impress me as being any to good.

The school opened December 1, 1946, at the present it is hard to say what type of training the men are receiving. On my visit everyone was busy. Equipment was being installed while I was there. I went to dinner with the supervisor, trying to draw him on the type of training the men will receive. He feels the school will be better than Booker Washington as soon as instructors and material are available. However, I feel Boon and Higgins are more interested in money than Negroes. I met one of the owners and had a long chat with him. He is interested in starting a school in Jackson. Jackson is one of my picked places for a Regional school.

I am going to do everything in my power to get a school established through the City and State.

The Printing School will open this month; they can only train 30 men per course. Mr. Took's,a Negro, is the owner. Equipment is good and the instructor is excellent. One feature I like about the school is that basic English will be taught. The class rooms are good. This school should be excellent.

The Tailoring School has not been formally approved, but will be soon. Passon asked me to look it over. The head of the school is Mr. Bodden, who was the Director of the Department of Tailoring at Tuskegee . A very good man, I know him personally. They will be able to train 20 men per course.

see back of page ~~Memphis has really gaining since I was last here, at that time there were only two schools of Barbering one of which graduated 206 G.I's last month.~~

Mr. J.A. McDaniel, who is the head of the Urban League has done a good job. If they get the school I can get them approved. Mr. McDaniel is now going to work on a school in Shoe Repairing.

The Committee at LeMoyne College has been very active. I have seen all of them since arrving.

There are no Negroes being used as Vocational Agricultural instructors in middle Tennessee, the story on them are in my report. I amy be able to help here in West Tennessee. Mr. George who is the VA Agricultural man for Tennessee, will at least listen to my story. I met him through Mr. Passon. Negro training officers in Agriculture will be employed by the VA. I don't know how many.

Yes! Memphis has more vocational opportunities.

Yours very truly

Gunter

Gunter

P.S. I have a story for our friend who is the head of the Farm Training program for the area. The fellow I met in your office one night.

Memphis has really gained. When I was last here, there were only two schools. A school of Bathering graduated 206 L. L's last month.

January 10, 1947

Mr. Marcus Gunter
916 First Ave. South
Nashville, Tennessee

Dear Marcus:

I have been greatly pleased with these last two reports. It is cheering to know that the hammering and visiting you have done is waking people up.

I would think that the new Private School in Memphis, if played correctly, could stimulate the State to a great deal more effort.

Sincerely,

GSM/lg

George S. Mitchell

January 10, 1947

Mr. Marcus Gunter
916 First Avenue South
Nashville, Tennessee

Dear Marcus:

Here is the semi-final on the proposed pamphlet of everybody's report material.

Please read it with care and give me your views.

(1) Should it be printed at all?

(2) Can you think of some more desirable way of stringing the material together?

(3) Are <u>all</u> paragraphs sufficiently stripped up place and people allusions to safeguard the Council's and the agents' interests? If not, please mark spots where you think changes should be made. Probably some paragraphs need deleting altogether. Mark the ones you think can be cut out.

(4) I am not too pleased with the introduct~~ionary~~ory statement. Any suggestions?

I will appreciate return of this copy with your notes at an early date.

Sincerely,

GSM/lg

George S. Mitchell

916 First Ave., So.
Nashville 10, Tenn.
January 23, 1947

Dr. George S. Mitchell
63 Auburn Ave., N. E., Room 432
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Sir:

Received your letter explaining the termination of our work. I have truly enjoyed working with the Council and feel I have served a large number of veterans in Tennessee. I will be very happy and honored to continue as an unpaid field agent. It has been a pleasure to work for you and to know you. I plan to visit Memphis, Jackson, Dyesburg and Chattanooga before the 15th. There are some things I would like to clear up.

I have no immediate plans at the present. If you hear of anything that you think I might like, please let me know.

Monday, December 16, I visited Columbia, Tennessee. Had a long chat with Mr. Jones, who is the principal of the Negro high school. Murray County has a very good Farm Training Program. Twenty men are in training with a Negro instructor. "On the Job Training" has increased 10%. A new school has been promised as soon as material becomes available; a vocational school is included.

I visited Fayetteville, Tennessee, the county seat for Lincoln County. Its population is 6,000, a third of which are Negroes. There are twenty men in training and twenty more ready to go. One Negro instructor has been hired and another on the way. I met with the class Saturday morning and visited a number of the farms. I found one fault particularly - the white vocational agricultural instructor for veterans ~~is~~ are receiving $240.00 per month; the Negro instructor, $183.00. Mr. Freeman, who is the State director, has said that the teachers for veterans will be paid no more than the regular vocational agricultural instructor. I doubt if we can help the situation, but some one should know about the great difference in salary. It is my understanding that they pay the white vocational agricultural instructor in the high school $240.00

I called on the Office Manager of the V.S.E.S. Found her to be a very kind lady. I told her my mission. Problems of veterans were discussed at length. Fifty per cent of the returned Negro veterans are receiving the readjustment allotments. I dropped in on one of the Beer Gardens and 98% of the people present were veterans. Thirty-five places are approved for job training in Fayetteville. Only four Negroes are training on the job. I asked why. She said she had tried to place Negroes in white establishments but had not enjoyed success. In the same town, a Negro doctor serves a large number of the white citizens. I don't feel this kind lady has tried very hard.

After leaving the office of the U.S.E.S., I called on Mr. Pitts, who is the county service officer. I found his office in the back of a barber shop. His office consisted of one desk, typewriter, and two chairs. The service officer is quite a fellow. Upon entering his office, he said, "Boy, what can I do for you?" My mission was explained to him. He told me about the wonderful program in agriculture for Negroes. I asked him about "On the Job Training" for Negroes. His reply was, "I don't fool with job training - there are too many papers to fill out. I am only paid for part-time work."

I called on Dr. Donalson, a leading Negro physician, and asked him to push "On the Job Training" and vocational institutional training.

I visited Professor Tinsley, who is the principal of Lincoln High School. Job training and vocational training were discussed at length. He promised me he would try to get a class started in his school.

I called on Rev. Lowe, Rev. Lester, Rev. Bolden, and Rev. Clay. I urged all of these ministers to push "On the Job Training" through their churches and set up a class in the high school.

I visited Mr. Fred Johnson, who is the manager of a recapping shop. He is going to train two boys. I was told by the community that this man can get anything he wants from the county superintendent.

I called on both of the Negro undertakers, George W. Howard and John Hayes. I told them my mission and urged them to push vocational training in Fayetteville.

I visited Mr. Albert Foster, who has a body work shop. I talked at length with him on the possibilities of training veterans. With proper equipment, he could do a good job. He worked at the best shop in Nashville for a number of years. I will follow this up.

After leaving Mr. Foster, I called on Mr. Pete Flint, the owner of the Beer Joint. This place is always filled with veterans. I asked him to push the veteran into training.

Monday, December 23, I called on Mr. Passon to discuss the situation at Knoxville. I told him exactly what I found and urged him to stop the schools at Austin High or have them improved, because I felt bad training with no equipment was the worse thing that could possibly happen. He promised to go to Knoxville and try to improve the trades being offered to veterans. While we were discussing Tennessee in general, a Mr. George from the V. A. came in. He is in charge of the Farm Training Program for Tennessee. He wanted to know for whom I was working. I told him and explained what we were doing. Mr. Passon told him he owed us a great deal. I asked Mr. George why there were no Negro instructors in West Tennessee. His reply was that each county supervisor was in charge of the program. I asked him if the V. A. planned to hire Negro training officers for "On the Farm Training." From four to five Negroes with degrees in agriculture will be appointed. He almost cried because I did not have a degree in agriculture. I am going to find him four men who, I am sure, will be able to pass the examination.

I have been so busy working in other counties that I have neglected Davidson County. Then too, with A. & I. State here, I thought they would take care of this county, but I have found there are two hundred or more men who want training and cannot get it because State is crowded. I had a conference with Mr. Passon on this matter. There is a city school here on Pearl Street that is not in use. With a little money, it could be converted into a trade school. Mr. Passon said he was sure they could get this school for the purpose of a trade school. It is very possible that it will be opened by spring. I will keep punching on this project.

Pearl High will be opened for veterans on February 1. I am sending you a clipping from the paper. I knew this school was going to open a few months back.

West Tennessee has definitely improved. There are a few schools I did not mention in my last report. Henderson School of Business in Memphis and two Barber Colleges. There are two other schools which Mr. Passon will approve as soon as I investigate them - Rankin's School of Photography and Grigg's Business and Practical Art College.

In West Tennessee they are using white instructors for the farm training program. I know the reason - a lack of adequate salaries for Negro instructors. The pay is so low no Negroes are interested. The pay scale for Negro teachers in West Tennessee is much lower than Middle and East Tennessee. At Dyesburg, they have a class ready to start, but have not been able to find an instructor. At the present they are training instructors at Trenton. There are four Negroes in the class. They are going to start a class for Negroes at Allen and White in Whiteville on the 25th of this month. Job training in Dyesburg has increased 20%. Believe it or not, a few are training in radio. Remember my telling you about a school in woodwork at the high school? Well, here is what happened - the officials wanted Mr. Black, the instructor at Dyer County Training School, to train the veterans along with the high school students - free of charge. Naturally, he refused. The official's name is a Mr. Green. I am taking this up with Mr. Passon also.

Arrived in Jackson. I called on the training officer of the V. A. for that section. I told him my mission and what we were trying to do. We discussed the veterans in general. Job training has improved. Thirty men are in training in Jackson. This is a great improvement. I said to Mr. Long, "There is no need of the two of us kidding each other; job training for Negroes is very limited in this section and the entire State. Why doesn't the V. A. open a school for Negroes here in Jackson?" He agreed with me and said he would do everything in his power to get a school started. A business school is connected with Lane College for Negro veterans. Mr. Long and I then discussed "On the Farm Training Program." At the present only one class is going and it is for whites. Five more classes are to start in March. One of the classes will be for Negroes. I feel that a class for Negroes could have been started much sooner, and I blame Rivers and Dobbins. They know the farmers in Madison County by name and haven't pushed the program. I talked with Rivers and from the conversation I gather he feels Dobbins should have to be frank. Neither of the

two has done a darn thing. While in Jackson, I talked with the President of Lane and a large number of people who can help.

Parish, Tennessee has improved. Tollus Business College for whites is a very old school and enjoys an excellent rating. They are now training Negro veterans. The course includes Business Administration, Accounting and regular business courses. I found one fault with the school - there are some fellows enrolled who do not have the educational background to take business.

On my return to Nashville, I called on my friend Mr. Passon. As soon as I hit the door, he said, "Gunter, how many schools do you have for me to approve today?" He said I really stir up veterans in Tennessee. He will do anything I ask. On a number of problems confronting Negro veterans, he always asks my advice. I told him what I had found on my trip, and he in turn told me what he has done. He hasn't failed to approve any school I recommended.

I am proud of the Legion in Chattanooga; the project in Chattanooga is my pet. I have just left there. Mr. Johnson, of the Legion, received a reply from the superintendent of the city schools. I am enclosing a copy of the letter. I met with the Legion and the Business Men's Club on the 13th. It was decided that we would try to find a building for the trade school. Thursday morning Mr. Johnson and I toured Chattanooga. We found a condemned city school two blocks from the white ball park. We inspected the building and found it to be in pretty good shape. One thousand dollars or $1,500 would put the building in excellent condition. They had a fire four or five years back. The floor space is 500 by 500 with two stories. It is perfect for four shops. The building is in a Negro district and two blocks from the car line and bus line. We are certain that the city will use the building for a trade school. Yes! Chattanooga is moving.

Spent the 15th in Knoxville. I talked with Prof. T. R. Davis, principal of Austin High, Mr. R. Porter, commander of the American Legion, and Rev. H. L. Simons, from the N.A.A.C.P. The American Legions are starting their survey Monday. They were able to secure the names of the returned veterans after getting the run-around. Here's how it was accomplished. They asked the Draft Boards to give them a list of the Negroes who have returned. The answer was, "We have no way of separating the files or we would have to go through each file and pick out the Negroes, which would take a long time. The Legion hired two Negro girls to do this job. After finding the Legion would not be put off, a number of the Draft Board employees went through their files themselves to keep Negro girls out of the office.

There are 1,400 returned veterans in Knox County. Each man will receive a questionnaire. The Legion, the N.A.A.C.P. and the business men are behind this project. I sincerely hope we have as much luck in Knoxville as we had in Chattanooga.

I will keep working in Tennessee.

Very truly yours,
Marcus H. Gunter

P. S. Somerville, the county seat of Fayette County, has a class going for "On the Farm Training" with a Negro instructor. I worked this town last May.

January 20, 1947

Mr. Marcus H. Gunter
916 First Ave., South
Nashville, Tennessee

Dear Marcus:

Sorry to say you forgot to sign this. Can you mail it to us right away.

Sincerely,

GSM/lg

George S. Mitchell

Enclosure: Expense Account.

January 24, 1947

Mr. Harry L. Wright
1244 Pittsburgh Street
Jackson, Mississippi

Dear Mr. Wright:

This is to acknowledge your letter received today containing your expense account and returning Dr. Mitchell's personal check.

Dr. Mitchell is in Richmond, Virginia and will not be back in the office until Monday, January 27th.

After deducting two travel advances from your expense account of $175.40, the Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Tilloson, finds that you have a balance of only 40¢. She ask me if I wanted her to make out a check for such a small amount. We decided that it would be all right with you if we held it and added it to your next check.

I am sorry that there was a mix-up about your address. From a previous direction I have been using your Little Rock address. You should have received your mail from there by this time.

Sincerely,

Lell F. Gillooley
(Mrs. William F.)
Secretary to Dr.
George S. Mitchell.

January 28, 1947

Mr. Marcus Gunter
916 1st Avenue South
Nashville, Tennessee

Dear Marcus:

I was greatly delighted with your report of January 23rd. I am taking the liberty of sending copies of 3 or 4 paragraphs of it to Dr. Charles Johnson, Giles Hubert, and two or three others. You may rest assured that you did a whale of a lot of good in your State.

I greatly value the association with you and the loyal and dutiful and imaginative services you gave us.

The Training Facilities Officer offer sounds just grand. Do by all means grab it.

If I can ever help you in any way let me know. I do hope that the future will throw us together often.

Sincerely,

GSM/lg

George S. Mitchell

P.S. I mailed copies of the Vocational Schools for Veterans pamphlet to Prof. Tinsley and Mr. John Hays, Mr. Howard and Mr. Foster at Fayetteville.

I intend in a few days time to send copies to all of the suitable contacts you made throughout the State. Is that all right?

You did not put in the enclosure you promised mainly the reply from the Chattanooga Superintendent of Schools to Mr. Johnson of the Legion.

What did you think of the idea of writing up a Tennessee survey? I had hoped you would turn one out.

GSM.

January 29, 1947

Mr. Marcus Gunter
916 First Avenue South
Nashville, Tennessee

Dear Marcus:

As a matter of routine, please be kind enough to mail back to me the letter of introduction which I gave you when you started work in pay status with the Council, and also any unused visiting cards you may have on hand.

Sincerely,

GSM/lg

George S. Mitchell

Gunter

February 18, 1947

Mr. Marcus H. Gunter
916 First Avenue South
Nashville, Tennessee

Dear Mr. Gunter:

I am back from a trip to receive your letter of February 6th for which many thanks.

I miss you from our now dwindled staff of agents.

Maybe some opportunity will come to you to keep shoving the Chattanooga thing.

Are they putting you on as Training Facilites Officer?

Sincerely,

GSM/lg

George S. Mitchell

WM. GUNTER, SR., Pres. Emeritus
WM. GUNTER, JR., President
MARCUS GUNTER, Sec.-Treas.
ALBERT H. GUNTER, Manager and Director

UNION FUNERAL HOME

Wm. Gunter & Sons
1711 JO JOHNSTON AVENUE
NASHVILLE 4, TENNESSEE

January 30, 1947

Mr. George S. Mitchell
Room 432 63 Auburn Ave N.E
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Sir,

Your letter of the 28th was forwarded to me to-day. I believe, I sent the Chattanooga Superintendent of Schools reply to you with one of my expense accounts. I am writing Mr. Johnson for another copy and will send it to you

There is a great deal of work here in Shelbyville but we are making progress, I will send you a complete report.

Believe it or not I have the names and addresses of every Negro veterans in Bedford county

You have my permission to send copies of the Vocational Schools for Veterans pamphlet to all suitable contacts, I believe it will help.

I will write you a letter about the survey.

Sincerely,
Gunter

said, redemption [illegible] de-
creased.

Negro Vet Registration For Courses Scheduled

Registration for courses in vocational training open to 150 Negro veterans under sponsorship of city public schools will be held from 4 to 8 o'clock Monday at Pearl Senior High School, Seventeenth and Jo Johnston Avenue, it has been announced.

Courses will be offered in masonry, carpentry and cabinet making, plumbing and heating, molding and foundry practice, and general education. All Negro veterans who are interested may obtain particulars at the Veterans Administration division on White Bridge Road.

Field Agent

February 1, 1946

Mr. William E. Dixon
827 Iberville Street
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Dixon:

I have a hankering for tidiness about money matters. In order to get the travel advances off the books at a reasonably early date, I propose to ask Miss Clay to hold back from each of the next two forth-coming travel checks one-half of any presently outstanding travel expense.

That's not necessarily an absolute rule, and if it would pinch you, say so.

Of course, you may have additional advances for long trips or if you get in some sort of hole.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services

GSM:jm

Field Agent

February 4, 1946

Mr. William E. Dixon
827 Iberville Street
New Orleans, La.

Dear Mr. Dixon:

I am glad to have your letter of February 2nd.

I expect they will have you very busy by now.

Twice you mentioned pushing on-the-job training with Negro business men. Remember, that while much needs to be done, it should in my judgement be quietly done, and our main emphasis should be on opening the whole field of employment and training to veterans.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

P.S. It would be well for you to go and see my friend, Fred Piper, and/or Mr. R. E. Starnes at the CIO office at 411 Camp Street, New Orleans. Both are familiar with job training, and either would be glad to help you.

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Southern Regional Council, Inc.
ROOM 432, 63 AUBURN AVENUE, N. E. ATLANTA 3, GEORGIA

A Council to attain, through research and action, the ideals and practices of equal opportunity for all peoples in the South.

February 2, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services
63 Auburn Avenue, N.E.
Alanta, Georgia

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

Frankly speaking, I haven't done very much work because I don't wish to stimulate too much interest in New Orleans at present,however, I have made plans.

On yesterday I attended a conference at Dillard University, with acting Chief of Veterans Guidance, namely, Mr. Rose. I found out from Mr. Rose that his office doesn't cater to Veterans that come under Public Law 346. Secondly, I found out that Mr. Rose is not particulary interested in on-the-job training, because the Negro businesses in the state of Louisiana think that the government should pay them a salary and repair their shops for instructing veterans.

I have called on Mr. Wielde,Director of U.S.O. In seeing Mr. Wielde, I found out that he is interested in sending as many veterans as possible to Southern University. He further told me that Southern University's curriculum has been lowered to meet the needs of veterans for training in trades,such as: Auto Mechanics, Tailoring, Shoe Repairing, Farming, etc.

I haven't called on any state appointed personell in regard of training, but I have collected quite a bit of material for reading as to the possibilities of on-the-job training. From way of the Grape Vine I have found out that most peopleiin the state of Louisiana are very anxious to help the veterans, but they just don't know where, what and how to do it.

I have written Mr. January, and I don't want to start launching my program until Mr. January and I ahve met personally and discussed what part of the state he is covering,and what part that I am to cover,so that we will not duplicate the work. If I haven't heard from Mr. January by Wednesday, I am going to Lake Charles. Incidentally, by the way of the Grape Vine, I have gained a lot of information concerning the veterans program in Lake Charles.

I understand that the people are very liberal and are willing to help in all ways possible, therefore whem I go, upon my return, I shall write you to tell you just how generous and liberal their people are toward veterans.

On Sunday, which is tomorrow, I am going to a meeting of an interracial group. I have chosen the topic to talk on, Cultural Malajustment, which obviously will include on-the-job training. On next Friday, the Veterans Citizen Committee, of which Dr. Snowden is chairman, will meet. They are having Negro business men from all over the state and it is my responsibility to try to soften the hearts of these "Big Shots" so that they will take Negroes in their businesses as on-the-job training, such as: Watch making, auto mechanics, etc.

On Thursday afternoon , I saw Father Maloney and he greeted me in an old fashion way, and asked me, "How have you been, Mr Dixon?" I said, "Well, thank you." "I am glad to see you back, one evening we shall go out to Hayes for dinner," said he. I replied, "That's fine." Of course, Father Maloney immediately stated, that when Dr. Mitchell was here he took you out to dinner, so therefore, you must live up to that standard which the boss has set.

Very respectfully yours,

William E. Dixon

William E. Dixon

Field Agent

February 8, 1946

Mr. W. B. Twitty
Allboro, Alabama

Dear Mr. Twitty:

Many thanks for your notes sent over February 2nd. You have evidently got a tough situation in Birmingham.

I am making some plans which I hope will do a little to get the kind of service we hope for out of USES.

I understand from Washington that the Retraining and Reemployment Administration has asked the Bureau of the Budget to allot money to the U. S. Office of Education for sub-allotment to the states, to enable the states to put on people to inspect and tighten job training. This is probably the truth of the rumor you heard.

DuBose's veterans organization is clearly Ku Klux, isn't it?

Carey Haigler can give you information about DuBose.

Here is a small point to check. One of the employees in the USES here in Atlanta stated that local offices of USES do not get what is called "placement credit" for job training placement. I checked this with Washington people, who said they do get placement credit where the training involves pay from the employer - which is nearly always. I would like to learn what you hear about this in some other USES offices. Placement credit relates to the allotments of money to each USES office - more placements, more money.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

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Feildagent

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February 10, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Aurburn, Ave. N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia.

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

Information, which I have received little, discussion which appears to have no definite conclusion, passes into persuasion which I have accomplished little, but have great possibilities.

After having made so many interviews this past week, I have found that people in general in this state have never heard of job training, out of twenty thousand different occupations that are listed by census, the most people think that veterans are not interested. Therefore, interest must be stimulated in various communities throughout Southern Louisiana in order that job training be publicized. And that is what I have been trying to do in a quiet sort of way. Which I shall try to enumerate below:

Rev. Drolet:

Rev Drolet is a very interesting person, his thinking is very clean. Of course, his first interest, I believe, is Labor Movements. Secondly, I found him to be a member of this Council, which brought on a very long discussion; naturally in this discussion he told me of his position in this parish. But he told me that I should contact Archbishop Rummel in order that he may prepare a way for me in small cities.

Mr. G. Farley:

Mr. Farley conveyed to me that the person most interested in job training in U. S. E. S. is Benjamin F. Wilson, U. S. E. S. Representative. Mr. Farley told me that the right hand man of the Archbishop is Rev. O'Connor. As soon as I reached the telephone I called Rev. O'Connor, made an appointment to see him Monday, at which time I shall try to persuade him to get an appointment for me with the Archbishop. Then my thoughts and with the help of God I hope to persuade the Archbishop to write letters to all parishes in his diocese, to stimulate interest in communities about job training.

Mr. Oliver Barconey:

Mr. Barconey, who is chairman of Veterans' Committee, World War II, which is a statewide organization, called on me and stated that he will get as many veterans in various cities and communities as possible to apply to U. S. E. S. for job training.

The Citizens Committee on Services to Veterans
(Dr. G. W. Snowden, Chairman)

Mr. L. Putnam, Army-Navy YMCA Program Staff and I were the guests of the committee. The committee has planned a Tentative Program for Thursday, March 7, 1946. (See an enclosed program.)

Dr. Snowden told me that he would be in Atlanta this week and would call at your office to see you and try to persuade you to make a speech, which you will see your name on the Tentative Program.

Mr. Edward M. Stone - Public Relations CIO:

Mr. Stone, I have been informed by Mr. Stearnes, has been to some school on Veterans Assistance School and his main interest is Labor Movements and Newspapers. However, Mr. Stone has been able to place two veterans as beginners with Times-Picayune Reporting Staff with a starting salary of eighteen ($18.00) dollars a week, which is the maximum amount that can be paid for their experience. Each veteran is twenty-four years old. Of course, I don't think that this training is in compliance with public law 346 because the newspaper is not an approved institution of the Veterans Administration, nor the State. Mr. Stone further told me that the State approves a very few institutions for training.

Mr. R. Floyd, Trainer Supervisor-Job Training (Veterans Administration):

Mr. Floyd told me that many institutions are approved by the Veterans Administration and yet they are not approved by the State; therefore, Veterans under 346 are having a hard time finding institutions or concerns that are approved by both the Veterans Administration and the State. On the other hand, Veterans under public law 16 can go to any institution or concern that is approved by the Veterans Administration and the State has nothing to do with it.

On Wednesday of last week, I went to Lake Charles, La., and called on a Protestant Minister, who had been referred to me as being one of the leading citizens. He told me that he would do all in his power to help stimulate interest in job training. However, I had to leave Lake Charles at 2:30 Thursday morning in order to arrive in New Orleans to make connections with Mr. January. Incidentally, speaking of Mr. January I am to meet him in Shreveport, La. on Wednesday.

Respectfully yours,

William E. Dixon

William E. Dixon, Field Agent
Southern Regional Council

/p

P.S. I read your newspaper article in the Louisiana weekly and it is the talk of the city.

PAUL D. WILLIAMS, RICHMOND
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February 11, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Southern Regional Council
63 Auburn Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

Would you kindly furnish me some headed stationery as I am badly in need of same?

Thanking you in advance, I am,

Sincerely,

William E. Dixon

William E. Dixon
Field Agent

:rma

Sent Feb 13, 1946
CM

Field Agent

February 14, 1946

Mr. William E. Dixon
827 Iberville Street
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Dixon:

Many thanks for your report of February 10th.

I am sorry that I had made a deduction from your last expense check. Suppose I exempt this one (for the period of February 5-9) from deduction and carry over until the next one the matter of the second and last deduction to clear up your advance.

I will be glad to come to New Orleans for the meeting on the 7th and 8th.

I am assuming that you regard New Orleans as your official station. Whatever city or place you pick, will of course have to live there at your own expense. I am willing to pay your hotel and meals at New Orleans through February 9th on the supposition that it took you that long to find a place to get settled, but thereafter you will have to be on your own when you are at New Orleans.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

PAUL D. WILLIAMS, RICHMOND
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February 18, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services
63 Auburn Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

I am sorry that I could not have this report ready for you on Monday as requested. Due to having been busy on Saturday, I did not get the chance to write the report; however, this will be very short and precise.

In last week's report, I told you that I was to go to Shreveport, Louisiana, to see Mr. January on Wednesday. On Friday, February 8th, about 8:30 I received a call from Mr. January stating that he would send me a card designating the place we were to meet. Upon the arrival of Wednesday, I did not receive said card; as of this date, I have not received same; therefore, waiting for Mr. January has delayed my report.

On Tuesday, February 19th, a meeting is being held by the Archbishop, concerning the civilians' responsibilities for re-adjustment of veterans. Representatives from all the parishes in the diocese will be present and the Archbishop and Rev. O'Connor will try to stimulate interest among the representatives; whereas, the representatives will convey the information to all people of their jurisdiction.

Frankly speaking, I believe I am the foundation of the aforementioned meeting; however, I will not take an active part in the meeting. I will go and just "sit in".

On Friday, I met a Rev. Fred Allen, a leading Baptist minister, who has under his jurisdiction, churches in eight different cities and he will be of great help in stimulating interest in his communities and the people concerning job training.

This time of the year, in the State of Louisiana, people are interested in Mardi Gras. They dance all night and go to bed about 4:00 o'clock in the morning. They return to their offices or businesses dead tired and are mad and do not wish to be bothered; therefore, I do not call on any of them until about 11:00 AM and I find by this time that they feel a little better.

On Wednesday, I have planned to go to Opelousas and stay there Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, by which time, I will have called upon the principals of the highschools and representatives from Mr. Barcooney's organization, and will try to get things running smoothly.

Very truly yours,

William E. Dixon

William E. Dixon

:rma

Field agent

March 4, 1946

Mr. William E. Dixon
1822 N. Prieur Street
New Orleans 19, La.

Dear Mr. Dixon:

I have been out on a trip to Columbia, Tennessee. It looked to me like a standard Southern community with nothing to cause trouble there. It means we have all the more work to do.

The Rosenwald poeple's form is not necessarily for employment. It is just to keep a list of people in this sort of work, in order that the list might be useful to others with similar interests.

I look forward to seeing you in New Orleans this week.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

PAUL D. WILLIAMS, RICHMOND
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February 23, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
63 Auburn, Ave. N. E.
Atlanta 3, Ga.

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

This letter is in leiu of my survey; because at present I can not get any one to do any typing [redacted].

Concerning my application from the Rosewald Fund mailed to me from your office; should I mail said application to your office or chicago?

Plaese make deductions from this expense account for pervious indebtness.

Very truly yours,

William E. Dixon

William E. Dixon
Field Agent

P. S. Please send all my mail to the following address: 1822 N. Prieur, Street, New Orleans 19, La.

Field agent

March 5, 1946

Mr. William E. Dixon
1822 N. Prieur Street
New Orleans, La.

Dear Mr. Dixon:

Thanks for your report of March 2nd. I am asking for prompt service on your check.

Generally speaking, I do not think it wise for our field agents to be important speakers at meetings held to inform veterans of their GI rights. We should go to great trouble to get authorized officials to do the talking. If we, being private persons, try to tell what the benefits are, we will gum up the works. We don't really know. Only the official people do. And we will make the officials angry because our misinformation will quadruple their work. And we don't want them angry.

I have written to Mr. C. W. Cabbart and to Mayor Price. That is a good idea.

I look forward to seeing you on Thursday.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

March 2, 1946

Mr. George S. Mitchell
Southern Regional Council Incorporation
63 Auburn Avenue, NE
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

Enclosed is the Expense Account, coverning last week's survey, requesting that check be mailed as soon as possible.

I am sending Mr. January a telegram for him to come to the Conference that is being held at Dillard University on the 7th and 8th. I think this Conference will convey quite a bit of information to Mr. January.

Yours truly,

William E. Dixon

William E. Dixon

:rma

March 2, 1946

Mr. Goerge S. Mitchell:
Southern Regional Council Incorporation
63 Auburn Avenue, NE
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Mr. Mithcell:

From February 25 - February 28th, I surveyed the Job Training program in the County of Calcasieu.

Enumerated below is the result of the survey:

Upon arriving in Clacasieu, I did not call on any of the people who were recommended to me, everything I did was started via of the Grape Vine.

The first thing Monday morning I went into a little restaurant in which I me an old fellow who had been living there for thirty years. I asked him if they had a local branch NAACP. He replied "Of course old man, Grant Williams"; as a result, Mr Williams was the first person I talked to. He referred me to other people.

MAYOR T. C. PRICE

On Tuesday morning, I went down to the City Hall and made an appointment with the mayor for 3:30 P. M. At said time, I reported back to his office. His receptionist received me very cordially and told me to wait in the waiting room until the mayor returned. When he returned, I presented my credentials, told him my mission and reason for calling upon him. This is the technique used: "Mayor Price, I have called upon you because I do not think it wise for any man to invade another man's home without his permission" - and that seemed to have hit the mayor right on the nose; consequently, the mayor was ready to discuss what little he knew about veterans and training for same. However, he told me that I should see Mr Gabbart because Mr. Gabbart is the State Representative of the Veterans Affaie Committee and he did not want anything ti interfere with the work that Mr. Gabbart was doing; henceforth, he directed me to Mr. Gabbart's office.

MR. GABBART

Mr Gabbart's office is located in the old City Hall. When I entered his office and showed his seretary my credentials, she explained to me that it was the duty of that organization to assist all veterans that applied for any of the benefits of the "G. I. Bill of Rights". Then, I waited a moment for Mr. Gabbart. Upon

his arrival, we discussed what my duites were in Calcasieu County and he told me that he thought my plans excellent and from that, a meeting was held on Friday evening at which he made a lecture and the topic was "Training for the Veterans". He, too, was a bit surprised to know that the majority of the people in the county had not heard of Job Training until Friday night. Since the night of his lecture, his office has been over-running with veterans. Incidentally, I must mention the bulletin board in his office. It was up-to-date, with government property for sale, Civil Service Examinations, Job Training Institute available, and universities that were offering courses.

MRS. D. C. COMBRE

Mrs. Combre has been voted the most progressive civic worker in that county for the past five years. She has a grocery store and an undertaking parlor. She told me that her son - discharged from the Army since November, who was supposed to have been orientated in the service before being discharged - had never heard of Job Trainging, neither her son-in-law, nor the discharged veteran working in her store.

Mrs. Combre wishes to call in all the veterans from the pool rooms and corners, to a meeting, informing them as to the benefits offered under the "G. I. Bill of Rights". Mr. Gabbart thinks that I should be the ideal person to accomplish same; however, I did not give a specific answer to this request because I wanted to know how you felt about the matter.

REV. C. H. WASHINGTON * PASTOR OF M..E. CHURCH

Rev. Washingtonis one of the most prominent and outstanding persons there. He is on the right-hand side of the mayor and the right-hand side of Mr. Gabbart. He told me that he intends to organize the veterans in that community. However, most veterans that have been spoken to concerning same, do not want any veteran organization affiliated with the church because they believe the only way to keep young people together after any meeting is to have a social reception; but in view of the aforementioned, Rev. Washington is a very powerful person and, I might add, he had never heard of Job Training.

The head of the Job Training program in the County is the superintendent of the Public School System, Mr. Ward Anderson who is a very prejudiced person, so Mr. Gabbart tells me. That is the only thing that prohibits all veterans, regardless of race, creed or color, from receiving the benefits, but they believe in due time, this, too, can be ironed out smoothly.

I think it would be very proper if you were to write the mayor and Mr. C. H. Gabbart and explain your thanks for their having received me so cordially.

Sincerely,

William E. Dixon

William E. Dixon

:rma

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION

1201

A. N. WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT

1946 MAR 18 PM 4 42
(37)
U ATLANTA

SYMBOLS

DL = Day Letter
NL = Night Letter
LC = Deferred Cable
NLT = Cable Night Letter
Ship Radiogram

The filing time shown in the letter telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination

QA97

QNSC73 10=NEW ORLEANS LA 18 326P

GEORGE S MITCHELL=

SOUTHERN REGIONAL COUNCIL 63 AUBORN AVE NORTHEAST

ATLA=

CANNOT ARRIVE TODAY HAVENT RECEIVED CHECK ARRIVE SOON AS POSSIBLE=

WILLIAM A DIXON

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

Field agent

March 27, 1946

Mr. William E. Dixon
1822 N. Prieur Street
New Orleans 19, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Dixon:

When you return the other things, please send me the Veterans Assistance Manual, and we will pass it on to the new man who has come in for Tennessee.

I hope you will let me know how you get along.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Field Agent
Travel Report

December 21, 1945

Mr. Ira B. January
2651 De Siard Street
Monroe, Louisiana

Dear Mr. January:

I talked today with a Mr. Malveaux who had been sent into the South by the American Council on Race Relations. He is a Texas boy educated in New Orleans, at Xavier, I believe.

He had an idea that is perhaps an advance on yours and mine. He thought that it would be good to try to get set up in each town what he first called a "contact committee". Between us we devised another name - "Veterans Training Committees". The idea would be to have them bi-racial if possible. The committee would concern itself with spreading the word of the availability of job training and also with urging all businesses which might offer training opportunities to apply for approval. The idea has in it a little of the notion of a firm to firm canvass. Thus the Veterans Training Committee would obligate itself to explain the program to all established businesses which would appear at all in a position to serve as training businesses, and find out specifically what they could do to open training opportunities, and then get them to do it.

You might bear this in mind, and if sometime soon a group that you get going is seeking a name and a program, try this out.

In any case, let me know what you think of it.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Field Agent Report

January 10, 1946

Mr. I. B. January
2631 Desiard St.
Monroe, La.

Dear Mr. January:

Many thanks for your letter of December 29th. I am sure you are on the right track.

It will be interesting to hear what the group of people you have drawn together in Monroe gets going.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Field Agents report

GUY B. JOHNSON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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EMILY H. CLAY
SECRETARY-TREASURER

SOUTHERN REGIONAL COUNCIL, Inc.

ROOM 432, 63 AUBURN AVENUE, N. E.
ATLANTA 3, GEORGIA

GEORGE S. MITCHELL
DIRECTOR OF VETERANS SERVICES

December 29, 1945

Mr. George S. Mitchell
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Ave., N. E.
Atlanta 3, Ga.

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

I talked with Mr. Taylor who has to do with the Disabled Veteran Program and veteran information center.

As a subject for the event, was the veteran educational, and on the job training program, Mr. Taylor expressed his willingness to work with any program that would aid the veterans, and asked that after a committee had been formed, that it act as a guidance in helping the veteran work out the course of training he would be best fitted for.

Inclosed is a list of names of the committee. They will have their first meeting with the business men of this city Thursday, Jan. 3, 1946.

I received your letter of Dec. 21, 1945, in regards to same. I think "Veterans Information Committee", if in small groups in churches and lodges and schools, but I had thought of this plan, which I am working on, getting a member from each group, the church, lodge, NAACP, union, business men's league. This person would be the contact man in his group.

Sincerely yours,

L. B. January

2631 Desiard St.
Monroe, La.

Field agents

January 16, 1946

Mr. Ibra B. January
2631 Desiard Street
Monroe, Louisiana

Dear Mr. January:

I keep looking for news from you.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Field Agents

January 17, 1946

MEMORANDUM to: Field Employees
FROM: George S. Mitchell

I now have a home telephone. Please feel free to call me at any time about anything important.

The office phones are as follows:

Walnut 1821

Walnut 7965

My home phone is:

Dearborn 5961

In emergency I will, of course, accept collect calls at either place.

Field agent

X

January 22, 1946

Mr. Ibra January
2631 Desiard Street
Monroe, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Janaury:

Thanks for your report of January 12th.

I am glad you have the committee going. It is also a fine thing that they are going to talk with the AFL.

Herewith is a check for your expenses. We are sending you expense account blanks for future use and some five by eight paper on which to note contacts.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

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ROOM ~~432, 63~~ AUBURN AVENUE, N. E.
~~ATLANTA 3, GEORGIA~~

GEORGE S. MITCHELL
DIRECTOR OF VETERANS SERVICES

2631 DeSiard Street
Monroe, La.
January 12,1946.

Mr. George S. Mitchell
63 Auburn Ave.
Atlanta, Ga.

Dear Mr. Mitchell:-

The committee has the approval of the sheriff and the city judge- but as yet they haven't been able to place a veteran. I talked with tMr. McClinton,,Ouachita Parish Service Officer, and Mr. Cooper Richland Parish, Mr. Madden acting Service Officer, Madison Parish. They all have the same story, the state department of Education and labor had been slow in approving establishments for on the job and apprenticeship training. Members of the committee are going before the AF of L,.this week to get them to accept. Negro apprentice carpenters and brick- masons.

Respectfully Yours,

* Ira B. January

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EMILY H. CLAY
SECRETARY-TREASURER

X

SOUTHERN REGIONAL COUNCIL, Inc.

Field agent

GEORGE S. MITCHELL
DIRECTOR OF VETERANS SERVICES

~~ROOM 432, 63 AUBURN AVENUE, N. E.~~
~~ATLANTA 3, GEORGIA~~
2631 DeSiard St.
Monroe La.

27 January 1946

Mr. George S. Mitchell
63 Auburn Ave. N.E.
Atlanta 3 Ga.

Dear Mr Mitchell:

Tallauha La.Madison Parish committee's are spreading the news through the churches schools and farming community, Raville Richland Parish training School is working on the Vocational school for veterans, wood work and auto repair

Bastrop La. Mohouse Parish, the committee is jest getting started, but they are sold on the idea and i expect them to get going before any other parish aroundthis part of the state, the teacher and the preacher's are together they are working hand and hand, they had been trying to get something started to help the Veterans,

The State is going to offer a round course in farming in the near future, that i have been telling the country preachers hoping such thing would happen, so i am told by the parish service officer that the state is going to have night classes.

Sincerely

Ibra B. January

Ibra B. January

Field Agent

February 1, 1946

Mr. Ibra B. January
2631 Desiard Street
Monroe, Louisiana

Dear Mr. January:

I have a hankering for tidiness about money matters. In order to get the travel advances off the books at a reasonably early date, I propose to ask Miss Clay to hold back from each of the next two forth-coming travel checks one-half of any presently outstanding travel expense.

That's not necessarily an absolute rule, and if it would pinch you, say so.

Of course, you may have additional advances for long trips or if you get in some sort of hole.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services

GSM:jm

Field agent

February 1, 1946

Mr. Ibra January
2631 Desiard Street
Monroe, Louisiana

Dear Mr. January:

Thank you for your report of January 27.

Because you write me so briefly, I begin to feel a little out of touch with what you are doing. Can you find time to type up maybe a couple of pages each week with more detail of what people have to say?

Thank you for your notes as to people you see. Am I to assume that they are colored unless you note that they are white?

I engaged a boy with some New Orleans upbringing, and after a little training sent him to work in Southern Louisiana. His name is William Dixon, 827 Iberville Street, New Orleans. He is instructed to get in touch with you right away. I thought perhaps he could take the territory from Baton Rouge south.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services

GSM:jm

cultivation

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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GEORGE S. MITCHELL
DIRECTOR OF VETERANS SERVICES

~~ROOM 432, 63 AUBURN AVENUE, N.E.~~
~~ATLANTA 3, GEORGIA~~
2631 DeSiard Street
Monroe Louisiana

February 2, 1946

Mr George S. Mitchell
63 Auburn Ave., N.E.
Atlanta 3. Georgia

Dear Mr Mitchell:

Beinville Parish Officer, Mr Cathey, who I talked with in Arcadia, La. there are very few colared Veterans coming into his office, why he doesnt know, he states that there are no difference in the treatment, he give as much time to the negro Veterans as he does to the white, and most cases the colored dont seem to know what they want. well he talks like there are no places in that town where they can get on the job training other then farming and most of the fellows dont want that. after finding out what there duties were in the Army, he advises them th take that type of work as a special training, they leave stating they will return and he doesnt see them any moore, he also stated it will be a pleasure to work with a committee in the intrance of Negro Veterans in that community. The white business men in the parish are sending out letters to all business places through out the parish asking that they take a part in the employing and and training of Veterans, the Arcadia Chamber of Commerce (white) are working with the Veterans Service Center (white), Mr Roland (white) one of the leading business men of that parish, and a member of the Chamber of Commerce who is the yes man in that parish , and has been doing the plaining for the white Veterans there, has promis to ask the business men in there next meeting to use negro Veterans where they can, he is going to meet with the committee and help them get started he assured me that they would take care of there colored people if they would work with them. A Mr Hollway (white) Scout Master, offered his service in helping the Negro's get in to on-the-job training in that community.

A.T. Johnson (colored, ~~anx~~ County Agent and William Willis are the ones that will get the program going there.

Very truly yours,

Ibra B. January.

Ibra B. January

2631 DeSiard St., Monroe L a.

11 Feburary 1946

Mr George Mitchell
63 Auburn Ave
Atlanta 3 Ga.

Dear Mr Mitchell

In compliance to your letter of Feburary 1, 1946 I received a letter from William Dixon, New Orlea--ns La., I will seehem next week in Shreveport

Very truly yours

Ibra B. January

Ibra B. January

GUY B. JOHNSON
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GEORGE S. MITCHELL
DIRECTOR OF VETERANS SERVICES

2631 DeSiard St.
Monroe, La.

11 February 1946

Mr. George S. Mitchell
63 Auburn Ave. N.E.
Atlanta 3 Ga.

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

On the job-training in Lincoln parish is doing quite well, the parish service officer say they are leading in this type of training. Mr Carter (white) states they have moore on the job training in his parish then any parish in the state of Louisiana. But there are only two negro veterans, they jest dont ask for it. He believe that the establishment of sufficient veteran assistance committee's through out the parish, will help the colored veteran one hundred per cent, with the business people in the community who have white friends it will not be any trouble to get any old business estabalishment in the parish approved by the state board of education, Mr Carter also stated there was going to be estab--lishment of seven Apprentice training field officers in Louisiana, by the apprentice training division of the state department of labor, it will be announced in a few days, New Orleans , Baton Rouge, Monroe, Alexander, Shreveport & Lake Charles La. there will be some ten or moore thousand busines establishments in the state taking part in apprentice training, sence it is the responsibility of the employer to request particarpation in this training program his advice to the cammittee is to contact by letter all or each business through out the parish asking that they train veterans.

Mr Carter thanks this one of the best programs could be started to help colored veterans in Lincoln parish, he is going to meet with the committee until they understand jest how they can work together and render the best possible service.

Mr. King a business man, will be dericto of this committee he has the confidence of the business white people of that community, he is also on the interacial counsel they have in this little town, six (6) white six (6) colored. ~~Ruston La.~~, I talked with all of them and thoes that are in town are going to work with the veterans contact committee and get on-the-job-training going in a big way.

Very truly yours

Ira B. January

A Council to attain, through research and action, the ideals and practices of equal opportunity for all peoples in the South.

GUY B. JOHNSON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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DIRECTOR OF VETERANS SERVICES

SOUTHERN REGIONAL COUNCIL, Inc.

Field agent

~~ROOM 432, 63 AUBURN AVENUE, N. E.~~
~~ATLANTA 3, GEORGIA~~
2631 DeSiard Street
Monroe La.

11 February 1946

Mr George S. Mitchell
63Auburn Avenue, N.E.
Atlanta 3. Ga.

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

I have covered Carlwell parish in the last few days, Mr Thompson parish service officer (white) talks freely and seems to be instered in helping the colored people in his parish, if they ask for it. there are no negro veterans on any job training in that parish, and a few white. one loan in process for colored a veteran. they jest do not ask for it he states.

Mr. hompson met with the committee in Columbia La. last saturday night to explain XXX, on-the-job training in agricultuel, the veteran must be taught the administrative duties .of farming before they will be able to get long lease terms,or government funds to purches farms, He also states that federal assistance to negro veterans will be on an equitable basis. But they must have the required amount of education to receive the training from the state.

The committee I contacted is going to be directed by Mr. Moore prensible of the carlwell parish training school.

Very truly yours

Iora B January

Iora B. January

Field Agent

February 18, 1946

Mr. Ibra B. January
2651 Desiard Street
Monroe, Louisiana

Dear Mr. January:

I have been looking for a report from you for Saturday, February 9th. If you will recall, the arrangement is that I want all field agents to mail in a report every Saturday.

I am to be at a Veterans Institute at Dillard in New Orleans on March 7th and 8th. If you haven't got anything else important scheduled, I suggest that you be there those two days.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

GUY B. JOHNSON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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~~ROOM 432, 63 AUBURN AVENUE N.E.~~
~~ATLANTA 3, GEORGIA~~
2631 DeSiard St.
Monroe Louisiana.

GEORGE S. MITCHELL
DIRECTOR OF VETERANS SERVICES

24 February 1946

Mr George S. Mitchell
63 Auburn Ave. N.E.
Atlanta 3. Georgia.

Dear Mr Mitchell:

In Union Parish there was not one on-the job training in the Parish, Not one approved business for apprenticeship training.

Mr Otts (white) Parish Service Officer states for a while the Veterans, white and colored applied for training under public law (16) but at that time the business had to be approved by an agency from the State Board of Education, by the time he could get the agent to his parish the Veteran has changed his mind or left town, Now the arrangements are going to be different, the Superentendent in the parish will designate accrediting agency's to approve business places and forms for on-the job training through out the parish, they are hoping to get something going in a big way , he is willing to, if the colored people will except, teach them the administrative arrangements, that they might make them known to the Veteran, A negro committee who will know the schools offering Industral education, in and out of the state that he does not have on his Roster will help the Veterans and the Service Officers too.

Rev. Roberts (white) Executive Secretary Red Cross Farmerville, La., a plain man to man talker very frank and out spoken, he has done all that has been done in assistance to negro Veterans in that Parish, giving them advice as to the best thing for them, he believes the negro Veteran should be organized in some type of organization on the order of the American Legion, so that he too might be informed as to his rights, and that he should be trained to make a living jest th e same as the white Vetrans he believe there should be a committee composed of both white and colored so the white man can use his influrence in getting this on the-job training program going in that Parish , he will be moore than glad to help the committee in any way possible he can. In this Parish some time ago there were two white men went into this community and organized some negroes, telling them they would be city marshall and sheriff, that they would own the stores in the towns of that parish , this caused quite a deal of trouble some people were killed before they were cought, they collected around two thousand dollars $2.00, this sounds like bosh, but there was a Mr James president of the Bank in that town ay it is true, I had quite a bit of interveving but everyt thing went well at the end, the people are with program one

GUY B. JOHNSON
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ATLANTA 3, GEORGIA

GEORGE S. MITCHELL
DIRECTOR OF VETERANS SERVICES

hundred per cent. They are going to contact every business in the towns and ask that they train Veterans.

J.B. Berry (col) prensible of the training school in that county has one G.I. in school they have a good shop, wood work and welding, he did not know they could train Veterans under the G.I Bill of Rights and they had'nt had the time to go up and talk with the Service officer, so now that they know each other they will be able to get the job donein a best possible way. by working together.

I met Mr Jordon from Southern University the State Supervisor of Agriculture, he is informing his agents to see to it as much as they possible can that the Veterans are not given too large of form, a family size farm do not have to be one 80 or a hundred acres.

Very truly yours

Ibra B. January

Ibra B. January

Field Agent

March 27, 1946

Mr. Ibra B. January
2631 De Siard Street
Monroe, Louisiana

Dear Mr. January:

I have had no report from you for Saturday, March 9th; Saturday, March 16; and Saturday, March 23.

We can let the 9th go, because you and I were together shortly before that.

You will understand that I cannot continue to keep you on unless I receive these reports regularly and in sufficient detail. You have been doing good work, and I value it, but I do need to know week by week definitely what you do.

Until these reports are in I shall withhold your salary check for the last half of March. If for some reason this is unfair (accident, illness, or something of the kind), wire me and let me know the situation.

For your information, Mr. Dixon resigned effective March 21. He writes me that he has taken a position with the Veterans Administration. I presume this is in New Orleans, but I do not know where it is.

I am sorry to write stringently in this way, but you can understand that I do have to know what the men are doing.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Field agent

April 3, 1946

Mr. Ibra B. January
2631 De Siard Street
Monroe, Louisiana

Dear Mr. January:

Thank you for your report of March 18th.

I do wish you would give me more detail. For instance, your second paragraph is as follows: "William Harper, Parish Service Officer, (white) stated that the colored veterans are outnumbering the white in educational and vocational training programs in Webster Parish. For the month of February and the first two weeks of March, a total of 91 applied for training, but as yet there are no on-the-job training going on, they haven't asked for it."

What I need to know is what you mean by:

> Educational and vocational training programs. Is that high school and college, or is it Public 346 or Public 16, and how much of each?
>
> When you say colored veterans are outnumbering the white, do you mean in applying for educational benefits or in getting educational benefits?
>
> It is hard to understand how there can be so much educational and vocational training programs going on when "as yet there are no on-the-job training going on".

My opinion is that you are doing quite useful work, but it is difficult for me to be sure of it when your reports are so skimpy.

I don't mean this to discourage you; on the contrary, I want you to keep on going and doing as you are doing, reaching Parish after Parish in northern Louisiana.

Sincerely,

GSM:w

George S. Mitchell

GUY B. JOHNSON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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SOUTHERN REGIONAL COUNCIL, Inc.

~~ROOM 432, 63 AUBURN AVENUE N. E.~~

GEORGE S. MITCHELL
DIRECTOR OF VETERANS SERVICES

~~ATLANTA 3, GEORGIA~~
Shreveport La.

18 March 1946

Mr George S. Mitchell
63 Auburn Ave. N E
Atlanta 3 Georgia.

Dear Mr Mitchell:

Herewith, report as of the 16 March 1946., Job training Educational and Vocational training in Webster Parish

William Harper, Parish Service Officer, white) stated that the colored Veterans are out numbering the white in educational and Vocational training programs in webster parish, for the month of feburary and the first two weeks of March, a total of 91 applied for training, but as yet there are no on the job-training going on, they havent ask for it.

On the job-thaining is going to take, or require the help of the business people of the community to get it going, they will be glad to see a citizens committee come into existince, it is going to take that to get this job training going in a big way.

He will give the committee all the information relative to job training they need to get the program going in that Parish.

Sincerely

Ibra B. January

Field agent

April 11, 1946

Mr. Ibra B. January
2631 De Siard Street
Monroe, Louisiana

Dear Mr. January:

Many thanks for your report of March 27th. This is in more detail, and I got a good picture of your work at Shreveport.

I will look forward to the newspaper story on job training in Ouachita Parish.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

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~~ROOM 432 63 AUBURN AVENUE, N.E.~~
~~ATLANTA 3 GEORGIA~~

GEORGE S. MITCHELL
DIRECTOR OF VETERANS SERVICES

Shreveport Louisiana 27 March 1946

Mr George S. Mitchell
63 Auburn Avenue. N.E.
Atlanta 3. Georgia

Dear Mr Mitchell;

Submitted herewith, report as of the 23 March 1946, this is late, but some time it takes a little extra time to get sufficient detail.

Mr Smalling (white) Certifying Officer, for on-the-job training, office in Hope St. School, (white) a complete trade school, for white this is. He would not state the number of whites on job training in Caddo Parish, but told me there were only two negro's on job training in Shreveport, they jest havent ask for it, if they want this training we are here to serve them, all they have to do is call me and come to my office, they will be treated jest as the white. But one out of every two hundred know where this gentelmen can be found, or that there is such an office in the city.

Mr Chatham, Caddo Parish service Officer, quote, here is a list of names that were given to me some time ago that was to be a committee on service to Veterans in this community, it was my hope that the committee would accomplish certain definite results, i am hoping that your comming here will gather some prospect of the broader aspects of certain problems, peculiar to the Negro Veteran, a program of action for the more satisfactory adjustment of colored Veterans would be a great help to the community, I am willing to do what i can to help them get started. I talked to most of the men, they were waiting on time, Mr Chatham is willing to go out of his way to help them if they will jest work together and keep in touch with hem, he is trying to make it possible for apprenticeship training in Shreport for colored, he told a group how to go about getting them in, but not to use his name because he has no control over this. Meh union leaders that i talked to in Shreveport were the type you do not like to meet, but if the building committee continue to work on them they will get some of the Veterans into apprenticeship training, they have lots of building going on.

The committee, will be directed by Walton (colored) he has organized the Veterans in that parish, he is using his office as a center YMCA and Green office office. At the colored trade school they have to offic, shoe repair and wood work, but not much to work with, they are honing to get moore equipment soon, the shop has been certified and they have 29 Veterans now taking training, the Veterans dont thank they are getting enough practice work but they dont have the tools to work with. In the business school

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DIRECTOR OF VETERANS SERVICES

they have 49 , they are going to have a day and night class..

I am sorry to have delayed my reports but in the future i will get them in on time.

Plans are being made to publish all the Veterans in Ouachita parish through the paper that are on the job training, i will send you a copy of same.

Sincerely,

Ira B. January

Ira B. January

Field Agent

April 18, 1946

Mr. Ibra B. January
2631 De Siard Street
Monroe, Louisiana

Dear Mr. January:

I have taken on through the good offices of Mr. George W. Snowden at Dillard a couple of part-time employees to do for southern Louisiana what you are doing for northern Louisiana. Each of them will probably put in one or two days a week.

Please, at your earliest convenience, write Mr. Snowden at Dillard and work out with him a time when you can come to New Orleans and meet these young men and pass on to them what you have learned about this work. Your New Orleans trip will be paid for by us of course as a regular part of your expenses.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Field Agent

April 29, 1946

Mr. Ibra B. January

Monroe, Louisiana

Dear Mr. January:

I am still not in receipt of your reports ~~of~~ April 6th and April 13th.

I am sorry to do it, but I will have to hold your check until I get these reports.

I like what you are doing, but I must know what it is.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Field

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GEORGE S. MITCHELL
DIRECTOR OF VETERANS SERVICES

May 1, 1946

Mr. George S. Mitchell
63 Auburn Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

Submitted herewith, the report of the findings in Rapides Parish Seat Alexandria, La. covering everything from individual inquiries to the problems of economic and social adjustment in that community, of Negro Veterans, The Negro Veteran in that parish from observation, dont know that there is a G. I. bill of rights. 7 out of every 10 could not tell me where the V.A. office was, from school teachers to street walkers, but the U.S.E.S. office have hundred of applicants applying for that $20 per week. I talked with a Mr. Wells (white) chairman of the farm board of Rapides Parish. He stated that a number of applications had been approved for job training of white boys. I asked that he state the number, he did not have that imformation, but as yet, there is no colored applying, Less than three hours, the C.A. went of a near by farm, owned by a negro and brought in a negro veteran carried him to the V.A. office where he was processed and papers for his lease was drawn up and carried to the office of Mr. Willis, The Service Officer stated that that was the first on the job training applicants for colored, through his office. Well a Dr. Cooper wanted to try another job training office to see how it would work. So we went to the Hub Drugstore where there was a veteran working part-time sent him to the V.A., and he too was processed. Then two from an insurance co., one from a funeral hime, and each of the businesses were approved. All of them promised to give the men regular jobs after having been trained.

There are many other experiences that I encountered, that might be of interest to you. I believe that a wider study should be made of the rural section. There are over two hundred farms owners (colored) in Rapides Parish, having from one to four or more sons, and not one other than a few that were going to college. When drafted are taking the advantage fo the G.I. bill of rights, and you ask why the answer is, we just did not know how to get started, information is so badly needed in the rural section.

They have wood-work shop at Peabody High School, but not one veteran enrolled for vocational or academic training. I asked Mr. Iler, Principal of the school why the boys that were drafted out of school did not return under the G.I. bill of rights. He said he did not know if the school had been approved. I went to the Parish Service Officer,

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DIRECTOR OF VETERANS SERVICES

Mr. Harris (white) office in the American Legion Bldg. There I asked the above mentioned question, quote Mr. Harris, "Every school in this parish has been approved, and I have talked to the colored people at the U.S.O. and at one other place in the city and told them of the legal aids that are accessible to negro veterans and that every effort should be made to see that the colored veterans have this aid accessible in all the communities where it is so badly needed. The only response that I have had, was two brick masons (colored). They were in my office wanting to know if they could get some veterans to train, but as yet they haven't sent the veterans in, and they haven't been back. We are here to serve veterans, when they come in we give them all the help we can. I can stand here in my office and see them from two's to tens going to our U.S.E.S. office, just across the street, but they don't find the way here. I have had more colored boys come into this office in one day, since you have been in town, then they have been at any other time. Now if you can get a colored committee that will give me the names of places of business that will train veterans, and get the veterans to come to see me, when you return to Alexanderia you will see a better program in progress. Just now the colored citizens seem to be busily in their own planning, to give guidance to their veterans. Now I want you to go over and talk with Mr. Wells, Apprenticeship counsellor." I went to see Mr. Wells (white), he gave me an optimistic talk on absorption of Negro Veterans into brick mason and plastering. Thry are not barred from apprentice training by labor unions, where the groups are willing to teach them, but if locals do not want to teach them, they have that right, but if the union will take them, we will be gald to process them.

I met some of the union group (colored) they are willing to take on as many as possible, for one reacon they don't have the men. There are no more that three young men in the local plasterers and brickmasons, rest 48 to 65.

The business agent and Secretary were in Houston, Texas working. I did not talk with them, but one of the brickmasons stated that if they could not get enough veterans around, Alex, they would except some fr from Shreveport and Monroe, if the parish would approve same.

The week of the 6th of April, I started with the veterans in Monroe teaching those who did not know how to register, that they might be able to do so, teaching them their ward and precinct, so by the end of the week or the first of May, every veteran in Monroe should be registered. I can't say until I return to Monroe.

They have had quite a number of places to certigy negro veterans in Monroe for job training. To begin with in two or three days, of not more than a week the agent would come around. But now it has been month

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or more passed since he was called and as yet haven't come and every week they are getting more veterans. What is the logical thing to do in a case of this kind? Iwas asked by a veteran, and I thought maybe you might know of some method having been used some other place that might be applied there.

Yours,

I. B. January

I. B. January
2631 Deseared St.
Monroe, Louisiana

P.S. Enclosing newspaper clipping, aprogram which is being sponsored by the President of the Police Benjuryu of Ouachita Parish.

FIRING FIRST GUN FOR GI'S

Veterans' Council In Battle To Place Amvets In Jobs

The first gun is being fired by the Ouachita Parish Veterans Council in the battle it will wage during May to place more than 2,000 unemployed World War II veterans of the parish in jobs.

It was manned by A. E. Montgomery, president of the Police Jury, and Mayors H. H. Benoit, of Monroe, and D. C. Golson, of West Monroe; and the ammunition they chose for the first shot was a joint proclamation calling attention of employers to the G. I. Bill of Rights apprenticeship and on-the-job training program as a means of increasing pay of veterans already working and of providing jobs for those seeking employment.

The proclamation, observing that "no more fitting memorial could be established in memory of members of the armed forces who made the supreme sacrifice during World War II than full employment of their comrades who servived," designated May Veterans Employment Month.

Mayor Benoit was scheduled to read the proclamation with appropriate remarks at 6:30 o'clock tonight over radio station KMLB; Mayor Golson was slated to do likewise ten minutes later over KNOE.

Copies of the proclamation were mailed to virtually every minister in Ouachita parish with a request from the veterans council that it be read from their pulpits today. Copies were also dispatched to civic organizations to be read to their memberships.

The veterans council hoped to accomplish three things during Veterans Employment Month:

Raise the living standard of veterans already employed by increasing their pay to the extent of the subsistence allowance provided under the G. I. Bill of Rights for apprenticeship and on-the-job trainees ($65 a month for veterans without dependents and $90 a month for veterans with dependents).

Spread employment by enabling employers to hire unskilled and inexperienced veterans at a living wage (beginner's pay plus subsistence allowance).

Prevail on employers to perform a civic service by enabling veterans to increase their value to themselves and their communities through the training made available to them.

Many veterans entitled to the subsistence allowance are not receiving it because their employers have not had their establishments certified as places for training. Numerous firms have not taken advantage of the opportunity of giving work to unskilled and inexperienced veterans because

Mayors H. H. Benoit, of Monroe, and D. C. Golson, of West Monroe; and the ammunition they chose for the first shot was a joint proclamation calling attention of employers to the G. I. Bill of Rights apprenticeship and on-the-job training program as a means of increasing pay of veterans already working and of providing jobs for those seeking employment.

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Spread employment by enabling employers to hire unskilled and inexperienced veterans at a living wage (beginner's pay plus subsistence allowance).

Prevail on employers to perform a civic service by enabling veterans to increase their value to themselves and their communities through the training made available to them.

Many veterans entitled to the subsistence allowance are not receiving it because their employers have not had their establishments certified as places for training. Numerous firms have not taken advantage of the opportunity of giving work to unskilled and inexperienced veterans because their managements are unaware that their establishments are eligible for certification.

The veterans council plans to stimulate the former type of employers and educate the latter during the month of May.

Every means available to publicize the apprenticeship and on-the-job training program, its mutual advantages to employers and veterans, its certification procedure and other details, will be utilized by the veterans council during May.

The proclamation issued by Mr. Montgomery and Mayors Benoit and Golson follows:

"WHEREAS, the economic health of the United States is as important to world peace as understanding and truth among freedom-loving nations, and

"WHEREAS, an unhealthy condition now exists throughout this country in the form of thousands of unemployed veterans, particularly those lacking skills and business experience, and

"WHEREAS, the federal government devised in advance, through a system of educational subsistence allowances, a program for training of veterans lacking skills and experience, and

"WHEREAS, no more fitting memorial could be established in memory of members of the armed forces who made the supreme sacrifice during World War II than full employment of their comrades who survived, and

"WHEREAS, establishment of such a memorial is lagging in Ouachita parish, and

"WHEREAS, May is the month of Memorial Day, when the military dead of the nation are justly remembered in words and with flowers;

"NOW, THEREFORE, we, A. E. Montgomery, president of the Ouachita Parish Police Jury, H. H. Benoit, mayor of Monroe, and D. C. Golson, mayor of West Monroe, by the powers vested in us, do hereby proclaim the month of May Veterans Employment Month in order, at an especially appropriate time, to focus attention of the public, particularly employers, on full utilization of apprenticeship and on-the-job subsistence allowances as a means of raising the living standard of veterans already employed, of providing jobs for those without work and of increasing the value of these men and women to their communities, as well as to themselves, through the training they are enabled to receive."

In colonial days, the American Indians dried and smoked oysters.

Field Agt

May 8, 1946

Mr. Ibra B January
2631 De Siard Street
Monroe, Louisiana

Dear Mr. January:

This is now Wednesday, May 8th. I am due a report from you which should have been mailed Saturday, May 4th.

Hereafter, if within five days after any Saturday I have not received a weekly report or a reasonable explanation from you for my not having received it, I shall reluctantly have to consider you as no longer wishing to work in your present job.

In that event, I will have a check issued to you for your services through the last period of which you have reported. Should it subsequently develop that you have worked for an additional period, consideration will be given to payment for that.

I am sure you must by this time understand that a part of the job is a weekly report. What I am trying to say is - if I don't get a weekly report, you and I will have to part company.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

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ATLANTA 3, GEORGIA

GEORGE S. MITCHELL
DIRECTOR OF VETERANS SERVICES

May 12 1946

Mr George S. Mitchell
63 Auburn Ave. N.E.
Atlanta 3 Ga.

Dear Mr Mitchell

Submitted herewith, report as of the 12th. May, 46 , The findings in Franklin Parish, Winnsboro, Parish seat.

In this parish there are very little job training, I was told by the Superentendent of Education of that parish, Mr Mc Duff, but they expect to have 6 or 7 hundred white and colored in the next ten (10) months, they have now in that community 800 hundred self-employed farmers and beganers, Veterans, of this number 352 ore colored, when this 10½ months are over he thinks all of these Veterans will take traning on the farm, or seventy per. cent of them. At present there are three (3) negro Veterans on job training as porters in Winnsboro and two applications have jest been approved for garage work. Self-Proprietorship plan, job training on the farm, they have no colored as yet, and a few white, did not state number, he had in his office at the time i was there two applications for negroes waiting for the board to meet, the farm board. these were the first colored to apply for this training, on the farm in Franklin Parish, states Mr Mc Duff. ~~[illegible]~~

Mr. Robinson, (white) Parish Service Officer, Franklin Parish, there were a hundred or moore Veterans around this office when i was there, every one of them were applying for self-employment on the farm, most of these were white, only 15 negroes, i ask Mr. Robinson if they new about the job training on the farm, yes he answered, i have told them all about the self-proprietorship training program, this self employment office happens to be right next to my office and when they come in i make it my business to go to the doore and talk to one or two of the boys and tell them about job training, but this self employment farmers program began paying them in from one to two weeks, the information that must be had concerning the Veteran for farming, training on the farm, takes a little time, in some cases in this parish there are Veterans having been on job training sence February and havent received a check yet, so that is one reason for the present condition, this unemployment compens ation is good for the ones that need it, but if it was not for it, there would be moore Veterans taking the atvantage of a training. I was a field agent before taking over this office, in Shreveport, i stop two Veterans on the streets one day and ask what they were doing, they had quit the trad school and were then trying to get on the unemployment compensation, they needed money, and they were white, so you can see this thing is a problem with the white as well as the colored. There were three Negro Veterans in my office last

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DIRECTOR OF VETERANS SERVICES

week wanting apprenticeship training, one pluming and two plastering, there are no oppartunities for this type of training in this parish for colored, and i have nothing from the state on it,if you people could get a list of places where ngroes could be trained in all types of sklle and semi-skilled training, it would be a great help to your people and to the service Officer we all have this same trouble not knowing where to send the boy who doesnt know where to go.

The above statement have been made to me by every Service officer i have talked with, for barbering they have one school in Shreveport that cant take any moore trainees before 1949.

H G. White, (colored) has a list of all the colored Veterans in Franklin parish, his school closes at one (1) oclock every day and he spends the rest of the day making contact with veterans, he states he is getting them into job training program , jest beganing in this work, hoping to get the job training known and used.

Sincerely

Ibra B. January

Ibra B. January

Field agent

May 16, 1946

Mr. Ibra B. January
2631 De Siard Street
Monroe, Louisiana

Dear Mr. January:

I am glad to have your report of May 12th and to know that you got things moving around Winnsboro.

The last report before this one that I had from you was dated May 1st, and evidently covered the week of April 21-27. On the assumption that your Winnsboro trip occupied part or even all of the period May 6-11, I have nothing at hand as to your accomplishments during the week of April 29-May 4.

I am therefore forwarding your pay check in one-half its usual amount.

If you will write me as to work done in the period April 29-May 4, and the report is satisfactory, I will of course forward the remainder of the pay check for that period.

I am sorry to take a drastic step of this kind, but I am sure that you are by this time aware that it is necessary for me to have your reports promptly at the end of each week.

You will recall that I have steadily requested that reports be prepaied on each Saturday afternoon.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Field Agent

May 28, 1946

Mr. Ibra B. January
2631 DeSiard Street
Monroe, Louisiana

Dear Mr. January:

Very many thanks for sending me your report for the period April 29-May 6. My apologies for holding your check, but you understand that I felt ~~shaky~~ about paying you for a period for which I had no report. Here is the check.

You are obviously doing most useful things.

Yes, do please send me a copy of the Louisiana agricultural training program.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

P.S. On your notes about the people you see, try to remember to indicate race on each note. I assume that the Rev. Mr. Murphy Smith of Vidalia and Mr. Jessie Ernest of Wisner are Negro. Is that right?

GUY B. JOHNSON
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GEORGE S. MITCHELL
DIRECTOR OF VETERANS SERVICES

6 May 1946

Mr George S. Mitchell
63 Auburn Ave. N.E.
Atlanta 3 Ga.

Dear Mr Mitchell

April 29, i was in Sterlington to see Mr Phillips (white) superintendent of Louisiana Power and Light Co., who was trying to employ labor through the USES agency in Monroe to do dairy work and truck farming. I had an idea that perhaps some arrangements could locally be made for self proprietorship plan, training on the farm for some negro veteran in his community, it would relieve his situation and at the same time train some of the veterans in his community. Quote Mr Philips, i do not mind doing whatever possibly i can in giving to the returning service people that type of training to which you say we have to offer, and if so they are entitled to. But if i remember correctly it was stated in a meeting in Monroe that if you trained a veteran, the corse of training should qualify the veteran directly for apponitment to the position for which the training in being given. I had with me cir. 99, he read par. 2, then stated we have splendid working relations with the Vocational agriculture teacher here at the Sterlington colored School, If you will have hem to write me a letter telling me about this training program jest as you have told me, there are possibilities of getting funds through the department of education for hem to teach them, I will be in a meeting in Baton Rouge the week of the 20th and would like to have the letter with me to read to at this meeting.

May 1 & 2 in New Orleans to see Mr Snowden at Dillard, as directed by your letter of April 18, Mr Snowden ask that i keep in contact with hem that he might know what is being done in north east Louisiana.

I spent some time with Mr Merkerson going over the work i have been doing in north Louisiana, Mr Gunter was not in town atthe ~~tim~~ time.

The 3 of May i was in Baton Rouge, went to the Department of Agriculture, to get some information on this on the job training on the farm, in the VA office they do not tell you much about it, its called in this state self-proprietorship plan for training veterans.

Yours truly

Ibra B. January

Ibra B. January

A Council to attain, through research and action, the ideals and practices of equal opportunity for all peoples in the South.

P.S. If you would like to have a copy of this training program I will send you one

Field Agent

May 28, 1946

Mr. Ibra B. January
2631 De Siard Street
Monroe, Louisiana

Dear Mr. January:

I am glad to have your report of May 19th.

That fellow, Doyle, really knows his stuff. That's a good interview with him.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

GUY B. JOHNSON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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ROOM 432, 63 AUBURN AVENUE, N. E.
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GEORGE S. MITCHELL
DIRECTOR OF VETERANS SERVICES

19 May 1946

Mr George S. Mitchell
63 Auburn Ave. N.E.
Atlanta 3. Ga.

Dear Mr. Mitchell

Submitted herewith are reports of experience gained in Concordia Parish, May 13 through 18.

Vidallia, County Seat, Concordia Parish. Remarks of Mr. Seed (white county agent, there havent been any on-the-job-training on the farm in this parish yet, that i know of, there are a few white's self employed drawing that (100.00) per month, i do not know of any colored boys getting this if they have tried or not i do not know.

Mr Hammons (col.) supervisor of negro schools in this parish state there were two veterans going to college out of the parish that he knew about, that were taking the atvantage of the GI. bill, there were quite a number having been drafted out of the schools in this section and they are not going back as they come back from the service, jest what they are doing i could not say.

Mrs Ruth Crockett (col.) quote, we havent had any surce of information as to the problem of economic and social adjustment for negro veterans in Vidallia that i know,about,and i am at the court house weekly, nothing has been done.

Mr. Doyle, Service Officer, Concordia Parish Ferriday (white) quote, when they first began dischargeing the 38 year olds and over, those fellows went right back into the work they were doing before going into the service, moore colored than white, lots of the older whites would not do anything, with the young veterans it is jest reverse most of the white boys are going to schools some are on job training a few self employed on farms, there are two negro veterans going to college, one on the job training in a store and two taking apprenticeship training as auto mechanist. The colored boys that are school eage you will see in these pool halls they are not going to take any training as long as they can draw unemplayment compensation, ($80.) per month and walk around if they work one or two weeks out of a month they still get that amount, if they are offered a job and do not except it they are not cutoff. The reason for this is the mills and farmers will not employ labor through the USESoffice, why i do not know unless it is the wages they pay, farm hands they offer (150) per day mill workers (40cent per hour) they are refuseing these jobs every day. Now we white people that were born here know this is going on but we are not doing anything about it. If you can get

GUY B. JOHNSON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
IRA DEA. REID
ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

HOWARD W. ODUM, PRESIDENT
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CARTER WESLEY, THIRD VICE PRESIDENT

CHARLES S. JOHNSON
CHAIRMAN, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
EMILY H. CLAY
SECRETARY-TREASURER

SOUTHERN REGIONAL COUNCIL, Inc.

ROOM 432, 63 AUBURN AVENUE, N. E.
ATLANTA 3, GEORGIA

GEORGE S. MITCHELL
DIRECTOR OF VETERANS SERVICES

the colored people that are in business to put there boys on as on the job training it will not be any trouble to get there places approved, most of them are afraid, but if you get them to put one on the rest will follow through. For buying farms there only chance is through the F.S.A, for homes it is out unless they have there own cash the banks are not making any loans for small homes, the people that have the money here will not loan any body where they will have to be tired up with the goverment, they know they can get only (4 per cent interest) and after they have paid income tax on the interest collected they would net only two and two tents per centi interest on there money.

Sincerely yours

Ibra B. January

Ibra B. January

Field Agent

May 31, 1946

Mr. Ibra B. January
2631 De Siard Street
Monroe, Louisiana

Dear Mr. January:

I have been checking over my budget for the remainder of this calendar year, and I am sorry to tell you that in order for me to stay within the money available, I will have to let you go at the end of June.

From your reports it is clear that you have pretty well covered the northern part of Louisiana. This is what I wanted you to do, and I am satisfied that you have improved the situation quite a lot in that area.

I now havel the whole of the Southern states covered, or about to be covered, with the exception of Kentucky and Oklahoma. The expense is considerable, as you can understand. I shall have to let some of the others go too, in order to stay within what I can spend.

You have been useful to our program and useful to your State, and I am grateful for your travel and many interviews and for what, I am sure, has been the effective way in which you have gone about your work. During June, I hope you will continue as you have been and apply your energies where in your judgment they will be most effective.

On June 29, I shall expect your final report for that week. With it please send also your "credential" letter and any unused visiting card and supplies you have used. When these items have been received, I will mail you the final pay check. Assuming the arrival of your reports, you will of course be paid as usual for the two weeks ending June 15, 1946.

Let me know what your prospects are. Will you pick up your tailoring, or what?

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Field Agent

June 4, 1946

Mr. Ibra B. January
2631 De Siard Street
Monroe, Louisiana

Dear Mr. January:

I can see that you worked hard in East Carroll Parish. Such a comittee as you set up will bear fruit.

I hope during June you can go and see them again and satisfy yourself that they are working.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

2631 DESIARD ST.
MONROE LA.

25 May 1946

Mr George S. Mitchell
63 Auburn Ave., N.E.
Atlanta 3. Georgia

Dear Mr Mitchell:

Submitted herewith are reports as of May the 20 to 25. 1946 .

Lake Providence, East Carroll Parish, Louisiana.

In this parish the popalation is about sixty per cent colored and forty per cent white, there are on the job training in stores garage cleaning plants and shoe shop, in Transylvania and Lake Providence 38 veterans, of this number, one was colored, a Public law 16. in shoe repaie.

The Self Proprietorship training plan, the Service Officer would not state the number of white taking this training on the farm, but stated there were sixteen negro veterans at present that had been approved for training on the farm, for thoes 16 he had gone out into the country and made the contact with the land owners that they might get a farm lease.

Mr Markey, Service Officer of East Carroll Parish, quote, the people are pleased with my work in this parish, yet i will be glad to tie up with any community veterans program that might speed this training program up for the colored people, the colored in this comunity would not be able to give the advice to the veteran in general he needed, but where they cannot provide hem with details regarding his readjustment problems, if they will help them arive at some specific plan then send them to me they will be doing an excellent job.

A survey was made by a Rev Cooper and i, to determin what, if any thing was being done to help the negro veteran through out the the parish, nothing exist, A committee was appointed after a meeting and all of the colored land owners that could be reached, were asked to come into town that some of them might act as advisers asn consultants to the farm minded veterans, one preacher from every community was present at each meeting.

They plan to contact every farmer and business man in the parish and ask them to use a veteran where they can, and can offer a trade occupation.

Sincerely

Ibra B. January

Ibra B. January

Field agent

June 19, 1946

Mr. Ibra B. January
2631 De Siard Street
Monroe, Louisiana

Dear Mr. January:

Your report of June 9th is the best you have sent in at all. I have a liking for the practical way in which you go about your interviews. That was a good job you did going out with Kitchen to try to get men actually on. I also like your suggestion about a nationwide list of trade and training opportunities. There ought to be such a thing. I will see what can be done.

When you come east, would I have the good fortune for your journey to be through Atlanta? If you ~~come~~, bring your tape. I will need a suit, and I should cherish particularly one that you had made. I run to the dark and inconspicuous. Also, I am afraid I fall for 100% virgin wool. Maybe nobody can make the kind of suit I continue to say I need.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

MONROE LOUISIANA
2631 DE SIARD ST.

9 June 1946

Mr George S. Mitchell
63 Auburn Ave, N.E.
Atlanta 3 Ga.

Dear Mr Mitchell

In describing the Tensas Parish findings in detail, i do not feel that they are going to do a lots of good, the only job training on a large scale to offer negro veterans in that parish is training on the farm, and as yet they do not have one in training on the farm, I spent two days with Mr Kitchen Parish officer going to see some of the land owners in his parish by doing so he was able to get seven boys work as daiymen, they are all to go when the places have been approved. But they will not be placed until he can get eight moore the parish will not employ a Agricultural teacher until they have fifteen to train, they do not have one now and the reason they dont have one , i was told was because they do not pay enough , the teachers are not getting much salery in that parish.

There were one veteran in Waterproof on job training as ahelper at a fillingstation, two in St.Joseph county seat, on Apprenticeship training in a gurage (col.) Newelton two had applied for body work but they have not been able to find a place where they can get the training as yet,.

Thats the problem in the small towns, there are but a few things that the negro veteran can get to do if he realy wants to get on the job training, you know lots of the fellows do not want to leave home.

It does look like the reajustment allotment is blocking job-training i am sure it is true in some of the parishes in this state, it has been stated by a number of the service officers in this state, yet there are some veterans in farmingcommunities that need this allotment to tide them over until they can get ~~xxx~~ statetd on a farm training program, it is slow getting started, but another six or seven months at the most i am thanking we will have thousands of veterans in training programs in north east and western Louisiana.

Mr Kitchen (white) Parish Service Officer Tensas Parish,(quote) The problem in this parish is finding a place where the negro vereran can get a training, the only barber school in the state that i know about can not take anymoore before late in 1947 i do not know where to send boys who want plumbling and electrician and for many other trades that they can not get on job training, there are no negro's doing this type of work in this part of the country and the white's are not going to teach them,

there are some boys that have enough education to take up any trade they want in this parish, i tell them when ever one come into my office what type of education he will profit the most from, none of them want to go back to school for four or five years of academic work.

If some colored organization would funish the Service officers with names and adress of training schools, trade schools for negro boys where they can get the type of training they want they would speed the training program fifty per cent in the state, we only have what the state sends us and that is only three schools in the state and only one of them offer trades.

Mr Reeves (white) Tensas Training School, we have money for a shop for colored people in this parish that will be billed this summer if we can get the laborwe are going to teach teach them wood work and blacksmith.

Yours

Ibra B. January

Ibra B. January

MONROE LOUISIANA
2631 DE SIARD ST.

9 April 1946

Mr George S. Mitchell
63 Auburn Ave, N.E.
Atlanta 3. Georgia

Dear Mr Mitchell

I expect to go into tailoring business, as soon as i can get goods and tremmings, i will go east for the month of july to see what i can get. maybe you will need a suit for fall, i will always take care of a friend.

Yours

Ibra B. January

Ibra B. January

Field Agent

July 3, 1946

Mr. Ibra B. January
2631 De Siard Street
Monroe, Louisiana

Dear Mr. January:

I am due reports for Saturday, June 21st, and Saturday, June 28th.

Will you please send them in promptly?

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Field Agent

July 9, 1946

Mr. Ibra B. January
2631 De Siard Street
Monroe, Louisiana

Dear Mr. January:

You will remember your suggestion about a list.

I have had the attached letter about this.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Copies sent to all field agents

C
O
P
Y

FEDERAL SECURITY AGENCY

U. S. Office of Education
Washington, D. C.

July 1, 1946

Mr. George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
Room 432, 63 Auburn Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

General Erskine has referred to me your letter of June 19, 1946, concerning a reference book listing educational and training opportunities for Negroes.

We hope the information you desire will be forthcoming as a result of a proposal now under consideration for the establishment of State Information Clearance Centers for veterans. The purpose of that project is to bring together current data concerning educational opportunities and to make these data available quickly to veterans counselling services as well as to appropriate educational authorities. When the proposal becomes effective the State Clearance Center in Georgia will be under the general direction of Mr. M. D. Collins, State Superintendent of Schools, Atlanta. You may wish to get in touch with him to learn of future developments in this field.

We appreciate your calling this matter to our attention.

Cordially yours,

J. W. Studebaker
Commissioner

C
O
P
Y

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Retraining and Reemployment Administration
Federal Trade Commission Building
Washington, D. C.

June 25, 1946

Mr. George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
Room 432, 63 Auburn Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

Thank you for your letter of June 19 in which you emphasized the need for a directory of educational and trade-training opportunities available to Negroes.

This administration is actively promoting a project, in conjunction with the United States Office of Education and the Veterans Administration, which aims to make such information generally available to all veterans. The United States Office of Education has accepted the responsibility for compiling and disseminating such information. Your letter has been referred to that agency for information and appropriate action.

Sincerely yours,

George L. Glasheen
Assistant Administrator
Retraining and Vocational
Education Branch

Field agent

July 18, 1946

Mr. Ibra B. January
2631 De Siard Street
Monroe, Louisiana

Dear Mr. January:

What about the reports for June 21 and June 28 I asked you for in my last letter?

Please do send them in.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Field Agent

July 24, 1946

Mr. Ibra B. January
2631 De Siard Street
Monroe, Louisiana

Dear Mr. January:

I still await my reports.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

January

Shreveport
Winnsboro
Tallulah
Bastrop
Raville
Caldwell Parish
Columbia
Monroe
Lincoln Paris
Ruston
Union Parish
Farmerville
Alexandria
Arcadia

September 26, 1946

Mr. Cyrus M. Johnson
North Carolina Commission on Interracial Cooperation
336 S. Salisbury Street
Raleigh, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Johnson:

It is good to have your first report.

You are going at it in the right way. You quite understand that each such interview ripples out into encouragement and fresh thought for a lot of influential people. Also it is helpful to me to have the evidence in your report that you get the information in detail and with judgment and selection.

Keep it in the back of your mind that I would hope that you could some day work out a council of Negro veterans groups in North Carolina. What you have done will be already shaping that up in your mind.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

TELEPHONE 3-1911

North Carolina Commission on Interracial Cooperation

336 S. SALISBURY ST.

Raleigh, N. C.

DIRECTOR
CYRUS M. JOHNSON

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CHAIRMAN BOARD OF FINANCE
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RALEIGH

Sept. 21, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Ave., N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia.

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

Well at last I have at least started on some work for the veterans service. I am not to optomistic about getting a lot done. We'll just have to see as we go along. I need a car, a secretary, and a reorganized Commission in order to do justice to the work. Maybe some day I'll have them.

My approach in general has been that I am interested in making a report for the Southern Regional Council as to how the Negro veterans are fairing in N.C, and what might be done to make the situation better. As I get a little more familiar with the field I'll be able in talking with folk to determine the real situation a little better.

I think I am inclosing all the reports that you mentioned. Tell me what is wrong with them, etc.

I am enclosing also the withholding certificate. I don't know yet how the tax is going to be worked out but I guess it will come out all right.

Sincerely,

Cyrus M. Johnson

Cyrus M. Johnson

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REPORT ON WORK FOR VETERANS SERVICE IN NORTH CAROLINA

September 20,1946

Dr. James T. Taylor, acting chief of the U. S. Veterans Administration Guidance Center at the North Carolina College in Durham. Says that a report of the situation in regards to Negro veterans in North Carolina might help to open up more opportunities. At present there are only six Negroes working for the V. A. in North Carolina, clerical workers and all out of more than one thousand employees. In Durham they opened a radio school for Negroes but there is not any cooperation with the county service officiers in keeping it going. Says Durham County aught to have a Negro worker.

Mr. Jack C. Pamplin, Assistant Director of the North Carolina Veterans Commission. This Commission was created by the General Assembly under House Bill 436 in March, 1945, but it was September of 1945 before they started operating. They have the state office with a Director and Assiatant Director and thirteen district officies with Asst. State Service Officers in them. The County and City Veterans Services workers work through these districts officies. Says the Commission tries to provide for as complete a caverage of services for veterans as possible and believes they are doing a good job.

They have about 46 employees none of which are Negroes. He says that they have talked about hiring Negro workers but so for there does not seem to be enough work, concentrated enough to justify hiring any. Says that their general policy is to go out of their way to give complete service to Negroes because they are more likely to be left out of benefits otherwise. They insist that their District Officers do the same. He admitted that county workers in a case of two had been impatient with Negroes, but the District workershad taken up the cases and worked them out. Not all of the counties send in reports, but one of the duties of the District Officer is to visit each county in his district once a month to check up on activities.

I pointed out to him that Negroes would work harder to open up On the Job Training Programs for their group than a white person He agreed and said it looked to him like in the Veterans Education end under the State Dept. of Public Instruction and in the counties with large Negro populations was the most effective places in which Negroes might work.

He was interested in getting clippings from North Carolina Negro news papers about veterans services and thought perhaps they should subscribe to one of the papers so as to get that angle. I offered to bring him a few sample papers.

He mentioned also that they had five scholarships for children of veterans thirty percent or more disabled and that at least one of them each year goes to a Negro.

After I am a little more acquainted with this field and what is happening I will be able to 'pin them down' to specifics a little more I think.

Mr. F. T. Farrell, Assistant State Service Officer with an office in Raleigh. Seemed to be willing to help in anyway possible. I told him I was interested in finding out how the Negro was faising in North Carolina under the G.I. bills in order to make a report of it and to suggest ways of improving the situation. Said that it seemed to him that the Negroes were taking more advantage of the opportunities than the whites. That he made no difference in his treatment of them. When he referrs a man to a job, which isn't often he says, he lets white or black contact the employer for any opening he has listed. Says that often the Negroes want to get into mechanics training but there very few places that will take them. Admits that a Negro working at it might open up some placed.

Mr. Charles G. Irving, Vice Commander of the American Legion -- head of the Negro division that is an auxiliary branch at present. Says that the Legion has 67,000 members of which 5,000 are Negroes. About 60% of that 5,00 are World War Two veterans. Says that they are seeking integration into the Legion and thinks they may get it at the convention next June. They are this year, for the first time, getting one of the four scholarships for boys that the Legions offers and they are also to get enough finances to organize a 'Boys State'

Mr Irving says he has contacted Col. Pickens about hiring some Negroes to work for the Veterans Commission (Col. Pickens is Director) and that his excuse was that they had no money to hire a Negro with. The second time he was told that they could not get any body to do the job. When asked how much the Commission would pay he said $2000 was all they could pay.

Mr Irving is now planning to try to get the American Legion officials to back him in the request for some Negro workers. He is also suggesting that the Legion have a Negro or two on the Legion committee for promoting State legislation so if necessary they can propose legislation to employ some Negro workers.

He says that there about 1,000 Negroes in the Veterans of Foreign Wars and some in the Veterans Committee, none in the AMVETS. that he knows of. I suggested that the Negroes of these three groups work together to get the Commission to hire some Negro workers. He thought that would be the thing to do and that he could help work up such a meeting.

Says that if the Veterans Commission would hire a Negro to visit each American Legion Post and keep the Post Commander informed about the different phases of the benefits it would be a big help. (Negro Posts) However he thought that a Negro worker in each district was the way to do the job right.

His committee is having a meeting soon to which I am invited.

I attended a part of the Executive meeting of the Negro division of the American Legion. They appointed a committee to help work on the project of getting the Commission to hire some Negro workers. I suggested that they have a meeting with the leaders of the Negro veterans in other organizations tohelp work on the problems but they seemed only slightly interested. I suggested also that they put more effort into getting the Negroes to join an organization. They are so interested in the fact that they may get more status in the Legion they aren't interested in much else. They seemed to be mostly 'old boys' with not to much interest in the Negro veteran as such.

Will have to get this names + addresses later.

PEOPLE INTERVIEWED

Week ending Sept. 21.1946

Dr. James T; Taylor North Carolina College Durham, N. C.	Very capable Negro. Was Dean of N. C. College for several years.
Mr. Jack C. Pamplin Box 2187 Raleigh, N. C.	Very pleasant and seems to have an interest in the welfare of Negroes.
Mr. Frank T. Farrell Box 1427 Raleigh, N. C.	Very cooperative and pleasant.
Mr. Charles G. Irving 615 S. East St. Raleigh, N. C.	Negro postman, pleasant, energetic, seems to be a good fellow to work with in carring out a program.

September 26, 1946

Mr. Cyrus M. Johnson
North Carolina Commission on Interracial Cooperation
336 S. Salisbury Street
Raleigh, N. C.

Dear Mr. Johnson:

If it is okay with you, our bookkeeper, Miss Clay, would prefer to pay you twice a month - on the first and the fifteenth.

That means the check for your expense account dated September 21 will be mailed to you on Monday, and any accounts that come in between now and the fifteenth will be lumped together and paid on the fifteenth, etc.

I hope this arrangement is satisfactory with you. We are rather understaffed, and it will cut down bookkeeping work.

Sincerely,

Anna S. Warwick
Secretary to George S. Mitchell

REPORT ON WORK FOR VETERANS SERVICE IN NORTH CAROLINA

September 28

Mr. J. D. Taylor, Executive Sec. of the State Committee, Veterans Ed Education. I asked him to outline how his organization was set up, and just what its function was? Said their work was with the on the job training program, to approve or disapprove and-place of business as qualified to give training. That this power was given to State agencies, in N. C. to the State Dept; Of Public Instruction. This Dept. appointed a committee to carry out this work, and he is Ex. Sec.

There approx. 13,00 approved concerns and probably 17 to 25,000 trainees. This committee has no figures as to the exact number of trainees and no way of knowing even approximately how many are Negro. Very helpful, Thought there was work needed in interracial field.

Mr. A. L. Teachey, Director of Farmer Training Program. I asked him what his set up was and how he fitted into the veterans picture. Said that he worked under the State Board for Vocational Education. They agreed to give the training program for the Veterans Administration. The Vocational Ag. Teachers would do the job and they, the Board for Voc. Ed., would see that it was done right.

There are 94 Negro Voc. Ag. teachers in N. C. Of these only 30 do not have a program at present. Some of these are starting one. There are approximately 4,000 trainees in all of which approx. 778 , nearly one fifth, are Negro. Says that where the Negroes have access to a Voc. Ag. teachers and can meet the necessary requirement, there is no discrimination. They seem to be eager to take advantage of every opportunity of. There is a Negro supervisor of Voca Ag. teachers, Mr. S. B. Simmons at A.& T. College, and he has the responsibility of supervising these programs of training for Negro Veterans as the white supervisor does for the Whites.

Mr. Mayne Albright, State Director of U.S.E.S. (Is leaving this work the end of this month to work for World Government) I asked him what was the work of U.S.E.S. in regard to veterans and how it worked out for Negroes. Said that the job of the local E.S. was to go out and open up opportunities for veterans and that they were doing a pretty good job. That the State office stressed to the local offices that they were to work for the Negro as hard as for the white. That they did not referr Negroes to jobs in cotton mills on stenographic positions where they knew there had never been any Negroes, but that they did actively work to open up wider fields of service. There ten divisional offices in the State that are staffed completely by Negroes and in those areas they handle the bulk of the Negro work. Does not see where they need any more Negro workers at present.

September 28

Conference on Unifying the Efforts of Negroes, local conference of the Civic Improvement League of Goldsboro.

Mr. Hugh V. Brown, principal of Dillard High School in charge. The session was a discussion and one of the phases taken up was that of the Veteran. Present were several ministers, teachers, and a couple of business men. I suggested that they needed unified effort to keep their boys informed on benefits, to try to get them in a veterans organization, and to open up more opportunities for work for the boys. One minister said that the ministers group had had such plans, but the lack of response on the part of the veterans had discouraged them. I failed to find out to what extent the Negroes are members of a vet. organization in Goldsboro. They do have a good school going for them. The Negro High School (Dillard) has approximately 200 GI's enrolled in day and night school and have classes in mechanics, radio, masonry, etc., with rather good equipment and instruction.

There was not much enthusiasm in the group for doing anything.

PEOPLE INTERVIEWED

Week ending September 28,1946

Mr. J. D. Taylor Ex. Sec.,State Vet.Committee, Veterans Education N. C. State College Raleigh, N. C.	Very pleasant and tried to be helpful in any way. Seemed to be interested in the Negro.
Mr. A. L. Teachey Director Farmer Training Program N. C. State College Raleigh, N. C.	Was cooperative in giving all the information asked for. Uses the term 'Nigger'.
Mr. R. Mayne Albright State Director of U.S.E.S. Caswell Bldg. Raleigh, N. C.	Very cooperative and interested. At the end of this month goes to work in world government. Said to be a potential Governorial candidate.
Mr. Hugh V. Brown Principal Dillard High School Goldsboro, N. C.	Negro -- has a good set up in his school for Vets. Cooperative, leader of conservative faction in Goldsboro.

Cyrus Johnson

REPORT ON WORK FOR VETERANS SERVICE IN NORTH CAROLINA

October 5

Mr.R.S.Turner ,Director of divisional office in Raleigh of USES.(Local Negro office.) Ask him how he was able to take care of the veterans and what his problems were.Said that it is a part of his job to open up employment opportunities for the veterans.That in Raleigh there are very few opportunities because there are very few industries.Negroes have opportunities only in menial jobs.Said that some progress was made in new openings during the war but no progress had been made since as he saw it.Has veterans coming in that got skills in army and now want to use them, but cann't get jobs for them in their fields so have large number in 52-20 class, and areabout to get in hot water overit. The USES in North Carolina does as fine a job as possible under our Southern ideas.He thinks they are plenty fair.

Thinks that the N.C.Commission on Veterans Services should hire some Negro workers or at least have some on the advisory board to represent the Negro view-point.The VA also.Says that the Negroes aren't joining vets organizations because they don't know enough about them and there is no drive to tell them. Also thinks that they would do well if they would form a loose group regardless of the organization they belong to.

Says they haven't pushed on the job training because most of the cases the Negro gets no training of any value.The system is abused badly he thinks Was intelligently pessimistic in his outlook.

Mr. L. E. Sumner. Contact officer in the Raleigh V.A. office. I told him that I was interested in what is happening to the Negro service men, if they were taking advantage of their opportunities and if they were getting all the help needed. He was immediately on the defensive. Said that his office made no distinction between races etc.I mentioned that the Negro often didn't get the opportunities in the South that were due him. His opinion was that the Negro was treated fairly in the South and he had been in many parts of it.He emphasized that Negroes were not given preferential treatment, neither were whites or any other group in his office.Kept no records as to race or sex. A veteran was a veteran th his office. I pushed no questions.

Mr. B. A. Collier,Negro interveiwer in the Divisional office of USES in Durham.Asked him what was happening to the Negro Vets, and what might be done to improve the situation. Said that the men had learned skills in the army and wanted to use them now, but there were no openings.Few employers would give on the job training to Negroes.There are only two Negroes in that,that he knows of,in Durham. Said that they had a fair program of vocational classes in the High School for vets.As he sees it there is no progress in opening up new fields.Negro in county vets. office might help as Negroes know there own people better, and as they are almost inevitablly more interested in helping a member of their race than a white person.Well trained, intelligent young Negro, Mr.Collier is.

Mr. M. H. Thompson, Negro lawyer, Harvard Grad. and member of Executive committee of Negro division of American Legion, and member of the Durham county-city Veterans Commission. Asked what the score was for Negro Vets. in Durham. Said that there were few openings for them in any skilled jobs. That when they first went to set up an office for vets in Durham, that he thought that he would insist on a Negro representative in the office, but on investigation decided that the number of Negro vets did not justify it. Asked him how many there were and he was very indeffinite. Said finally, less than three thousand. Thinks the NC. Veterans Commission should at least have some Negro representative on their board and perhaps some to work for them. Also the V. A. Thinks that it would be good also to get the Negro leaders of each Veterans group to-gether now and them to talk things over. He is member of V.F.W. also but does not have time to attend their meetings.

Some Negroes think that Durham does have enough Negro veteran s to justify the hiring of a Negro to work with them. Mr. Thompson, and intelligent and pleasant person, is probably considered by some a 'safe Negro'.

Mr. Paul G. Noell, director of county veterans service office, and city of Durham. Told him that I was interested in what was happening to Negro veterans and wanted to find out what the situation is in Durham. Said that before he was hired the question was asked him, What would be his attitude when Negroes came into his office etc? Said that he told them that he would see that all got the same treatment and he had not failed to carry that out. As he saw it there were two problems that were worse for the Negro vet. One was that there were few opportunities for on the job training. I asked him did he think that openings might be made if a group, or a few interested folk would work at the problem, and he said that he thought some progress might be made. Not a whole lot. The other problem was housing. Said that aside from his real job he had tried for Negro and White to get a group of each to help find housing for the vets. The whites cooperated fairly well, but the Negroes wouldn't do anything. As he sees it the main problem is that the Negroes do not try hard enough to improve themselves and to work for their own good.

He seemed sincere and interested, but showed his southern tradition in ways as he would almost say 'Nigger'.

Mr. W.T. Hampton, Director of V.A. Contact office in Durham. Told him of my relationship to S.R.C. (as I have others) and asked him how he sees the situation. Said thathe thanght that we make a mistake by singling out the Negro as a special individual. They treat all the same inthe office. Problem one of class of people and not one of race. Two things particularly about situation. Negroes need to quit 'crying' and look for present opportunities to take advantage of. Second they need to clear their own 'house'. Negroes are exploiting Negroes, very badly.

He was interested, pronounced Negro correctly, and showed considerable familiarity with situations. He could put his finger on the spots that the Negro is weak on, giving examples of instances that he had know of. I tried to point out why their weaknesses in certain spots. He agreed somewhat, but still seemed to think , they are there own salvation.

PEOPLE INTERVIEWED

Week ending October 5,1946

Mr.R.S.Turner Divisional Office of USES 113 E. Davie Raleigh, N.C.	Director of local Negro office, cooperative, interested and intelligently pessimistic.
Mr. L. E. Sumner V.A.Contact Officer Commercial Bldg. 20 E. Martin St. Raleigh, N.C.	Adopted defensive attitude.Thinks South treats Negro fairly.Beleive he would explode if pushed on subject.
Mr. B. A. Collier USES Divisional Office 126 E. Parrish St. Durham, N. C.	Well edusated pleasant young Negro, Non-Vet.Person you can like and forget about race.
Mr. M. H. Thompson 106 Parrish St. Durham,N. C.	Negro lawyer, Harvard, World War 1 Vet.,Executive Committee member of Negro division of American Legion, and Member of the county-city Veterans Commission.(only Negro member) Not much of a pusher, but interested and cooperative in gradual movement.
Mr. Paul G. Noell Local Service Officer County Court House Durham, N. C.	An old timer in veterans work, seemed sincere in trying to be fair. Interested,Probably an average Southern attitude at heart.
Mr. W. T. Hampton V.A.Contact Office Snow Bldg. Durham,N. C.	Interested and shows that he has some more than superficial knowledge of racial situation.Not particularly cooperative in working out ideas to help Negroes.Beleives that a lot of the problems due to them. Solution lies in forgetting race.

Field agent

October 10, 1946

Mr. Cyrus Johnson
336 S. Salisbury Street
Raleigh, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Johnson:

You continue to do a good job with your interviews.

You have got a lot of things to do, but maybe at some later date you could write up an article for the New South, or perhaps for publication elsewhere, appraising services to Negro veterans in North Carolina.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

TELEPHONE 3-1911

North Carolina Commission on Interracial Cooperation

336 S. SALISBURY ST.

Raleigh, N. C.

DIRECTOR
CYRUS M. JOHNSON

GENERAL OFFICERS

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CHAIRMAN BOARD OF FINANCE
GURNEY P. HOOD
RALEIGH

October 11,1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Southern Regional Council,Inc.
63 Auburn Ave.,N.E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

There will be no report this week as I have done no interviewing on the matter.

I hope to go to Winston-Salem,(V.A. headquarters) to Greensboro to a Negro veterans guidance center, to Rocky Mount where there is supposidly a good program going on under a U.S.E.S. man, with in the next couple of weeks.

I have already been giving some thought to writing up a report for publication. If I can do a good job and get it distributed widely perhaps it might do some good. I am going to try to get it fixed up by the first week in November.

Sincerely,

Cyrus M. Johnson

Cyrus M. Johnson

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MRS. L. B. YANCEY

Cyrus Johnson

REPORT ON WORK FOR VETERANC SERVICE IN NORTH

CAROLINA

Oct. ~~Saturday~~-19, 1946

Mr. W. R. Bowen, Assistant Chief of Rehabilitation, VA A. state office. Said that they served people erespective of race. He was accepting fact that Negroes were to have more opportunities.
Said thay had no figures broken down as to race and could get no approximations without going all through the files. The V.A. has two guidance centers under Negroes and does not see that they could use any other Negroes in the set-up, particularly as their budget is rather low. As he sees it, it is the duty of the State Dept. of Education to survey need for more training units and set them up and the Dept. had tried to get them to do it. Said that they go out and find jobs for the disabled and that they had been very successful with both white and Negro. Said there was need of more job opportunities for Negroes, but it wasn't their job to open them. There was also a need for Negroes to take more advantage of the opportunities available.
Talked with him for quite a while but didn't get a lot out of him.

Mr. James V. Graham. veterans representative (Negro) in the divisional office of Winston-Salem U.S.E.S. Same old story. The veterans want jobs that use the skills that they acquired in the army and they are not available. They file claims for compensation until they can get such jobs. They have about twelve in on the job training in Winston-Salem, most of which are barber apprentices. (about two others). Said that he thought it would be a good idea for the veterans (Negro) to have representatives from each organization get together. He is a member of the Legion and has meant to join the Veterans Committee.

Mr. John Hauser? supervisor in divisional office of USES in Winston-Salem (Negro veteran) Talke d with him a long time about the whole situation. Said that the army separation centers were very unrealistic to fill the mind of the Negro Vet. with the idea that things would be different when he got back home. His advice to the men coming to him was to take the best job you can find, but take a job, for in a few years jobs will be scarce again and if you have been loafing, you'll be further out in the cold. Thought the Negro veterans aught to get together in perhaps the Nat. Council for Negro Vet. They have a small branch in Winston. They need Negroes working in the different groups with Negroes. veterans.

Mr. Wade Marsh, leader in the Nat. Council for Negro Veterans group, Seems to run more of a recreation hall than any thing else, for vets; thinks that the Negro veterans must get together and that the Nat. Council is the way. I doubt that he has the leadership ability to do it.

A person told me that the Veterans Employement Service was going to put on more personell in N.C. and that the gentleman in charge was considering to use of a Negro or two. Mr. Godwin is the man in charge I believe I hope to contact him the first of next week.

People Interviewed

Oct,19, 1946

Mr. W.R. Bowen Ass't. Chief of Reh. Veterans Administration Nissen Bldg. Winston-Salem, N. C.	Pretty good guy, but not very sharp, it seemed to me. Would be cooperative but not much drive. Veteran.
Mr. James V. Graham Divisional Office of USES. 220 E. Sixth St. Winston-Salem, N.C.	Negro veterans representative. Not to much on the ball. Is a veteran himself.
Mr. John Hauser Divisional Office of USES 220 E. Siath St. Winston-Salem, N.C.	Supervisor in the office. Is a Negro veteran. Welltrained and sharp. Realist, few illusions about the future.
Mr. Wade Marsh. Nat. Council for Negro Veterans E. Seventh St. Winston-Salem	Cann't characterize him. Would be cooperative I think.

October 23, 1946

MEMORANDUM TO: Cyrus Johnson
FROM: George S. Mitchell

In a few weeks I intend to assign Mr. Horace Bohannon full time to a job of compiling a directory of veterans organizations in the Southern states. He has already attended the Chicago Conference of the United Negro and Allied Veterans and will be going in a week or so to the AVC meeting at Des Moines, Iowa, and he as been active in Georgia in the Georgia Veterans League, so that he has a start.

You can shorten the period of his study, and greatly improve it, and save us all money, if you will systematically collect in your travels the information that Mr. Bohannon will be needing. Here is his list of the things he wants about veterans organizations.

I know you have a lot to do, but I know also that you are constantly in contact with people who have this information. Please take the trouble to get the information in the desired detail and send it in. It should be in a separate letter addressed to me for the attention of Mr. Horace Bohannon. A separate letter for each separate organization.

By organization is meant something more than a single post or chapter, unless it happens to be an organization with only one post or chapter. That is to say, what he wants is the head office, etc. for each organization. If you run into a post of an organization whose head offices are at some distance, send what information you get about the organization gleaned from the officials of its post, and we can find and interview officials at the headquarters later.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

REPORT ON WORK FOR VETERANS SERVICE IN NORTH CAROLINA

Week ending October 26

Mr. R. C. Godwin and MR. Robert A. Wadsworth , director and assistant director ofVeterand Employment Service. I told them that I was interested in getting a picture of services for veterans in N.C. and particularly what was happening to Negro Vets. They said that there job was to see that veterans got jobs and that they worked through the employment service. In each office there is a Vet representative that is supposed to see that vets get first bid on jobs. That there men were doing a good job and they were glad to have anyone investigate at any time. Placed a larger percentage of veterans that 40 other states last month. They use Negro vet. representatives where the USES has an office with Negroes. They have supervisors who go around and check on these men. No Negro supervisors. Said they are hiring eight more ~~Negro~~ supervisors , but could not get and idea from them if any would be Negro. I tried to stress to them the fact that most of the vetera s groups left the Negro out of any opportunity to work for them. They were some what sympathetic. Said that there was needed local Negro committee to work out more opportunities for Negroes. While they evidenced some of the typical southern prejudices they seemed to be very interested in ther office doing a good job all around, and feel that it is dding so.

Mr. J. A. Christmas, training officer in the guidance center at A.& T. College, in Greensboro(I did not have enough time to do this justice.) Asked him about there setup. Said they had a vocational guidance director , secretary and himself, all worked for the Veterans Administration, and that the College suplied several more people to get tests etc. His job was primarily to work with the disabled vets, to supervise there training and to keep his eyes open for places for them to work. Said that there program was working out fairly satisfactorily.

November 7, 1946

Mr. Cyrus Johnson
336 S. Salisbury Street
Raleigh, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Johnson:

I am glad to have your last letter.

In Richmond the Veterans Administration has opened an extra contact office in an office building in the Negro business area. It is staffed with two Negro contact officers and other clerks and officials. North Carolina is the next logical place for this to spread to. Do you hear any whispers of it?

I look forward to getting your North Carolina report. Here is a fresh one on Louisiana, and we have Oklahoma written and soon to be printed.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Cyrus Johnson

REPORT ON WORK IN VETERANS SERVICES.

Tuesday, October 29, I attended and all day meeting at the North Carolina College, in Durham, called by the Head of Negro Education in North Carolina(Mr. Newbold) to discuss education for veterans, under the G.I Bill, and other phases of the program, as desired. Present were Mr. Elton Hemingway, head of the State V.A., Mr. Harrell, Senior training officer of Institutional training, the President of a represenative from most of the Negro colleges, a number of high schoo principals, about 45 leading Negroes in all, Mr. Pamplin, ass't director of N.C. Commission on Veterans Services

In general the talk centered on developing programs of institutional training, (college, high school, and special programs). There were mentioned agricultural, trade, accelerated pre-college training, training for just a high school diploma, and classes for those who just wanted to read and, write and figure satisfactorily. There are examples of all these types in N. C.

Means were discussed for more widely disseminating information on these programs.(I hope my report may be a part of this)

Possibility of using more Negroes in administration positions was discussed. The VA.talked like they might. The N.C. Commission was not incouraging.

On the job training was talked about, but not much satisfactory came of it.

It was all round an excellent meeting.It showed that things are happening in the Negro Veteran realm, and that there is a definite interest in improving it.

Thursday October 31, I spent working on my report. I hope if things work out right to have it all rounded out the last of next week, with the hope that we could get it printed (if it warrants it) and distributed widely right away.

If it contains the right stuff and is widely distributed, I believe it could have a large effect on promoting a more vigorous program.

TELEPHONE 3-1911

North Carolina Commission on Interracial Cooperation

336 S. SALISBURY ST.

Raleigh, N. C.

DIRECTOR
CYRUS M. JOHNSON

Field Agent

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November 7, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Ave N. E.
Atlanta 3, Ga.

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

I am inclosing a rough draft of what I hope will be a worthwhile report on Veterans services in North Carolina. There are still some blanks to be filled in some of which I don't guess I'll be able to fill in unless I visit each school.

I wrote each High School for a report on their activities, but I am not getting reports from them.

I wish you would let me know what you think of this? Whether you think you can publish it? Whether we can distribute it widely or not? What more aught to be done to it? etc?

I haven't done any work on the specific report for Mr. Bohannan yet.-It will be after the S.R.C. Annual meeting and meeting of the Fellows, which I hope to attend, before I have much time. After that I can spent as much time as necessary on any phase that you still want covered. I would like to get this Survey published before long however, if it is of value.

I've been hoping the S.R.C. would start a program of promotting cooperatives in the South next year. I don't know anything about the situation but I'd like to see you and a staff really work on that angle awhile, else, come the depression, all this work will be 'gone with the wind'.

I'll probably see you next week.

Sincerely,

Cyrus M. Johnson

Cyrus M. Johnson.

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A SURVEY OF VETERANS SERVICES FOR NEGROES IN NORTH CAROLINA

Educational Opportunities

It has often been said that the education of the Negro is theonly solution to our 'race relations problems. Actually only a few, grossly uninformed people, would hold that to be the only factor involved, and most everyone would agree that more and better education would be a help. ~~In spite of the~~

In spite of the progress made in education in North Carolina, the education of all our youths is inadequate, and that is particularly true for the Negro. So, when additional opportunity comes along it is very necessary that we exploit it as much as possible. Such an opportunity for a large number of persons is presented by the G. I. Bill of Rights. This bill has been characterized as "the best opportunity the Negro, in the South has ever had to improve his educational and economic status and at the same time raise the economic and social level of the entire race."

Out of approximately 370,000 men in Noorth Carolina who were drafted or enlisted to serve in the armed forces during the war period, around 75,000 were Negroes. Most of this number, well over 60,000 have been discharged and are eligible for many benefits.

In this group of returned service men, there are many well educated citizens, and there are many who are unable to read and write satisfactorily. There are some who are skilled technitions and there are many whose training has been only that which he picked up on the farm. There are many who seek out opportunities to better themselves and to aid society, and there are some who are satisfied to sit in the shade with no thought of improving themselves, ~~and~~ or of making a contribution to our social well being. There are some who have already had some opportunities and failed to take advantage of them, and there are those that have tried hard to create their opportunities, but they have been caught in the labyrinth of our bi-racial complexities and have pursued one course after another only to find it was dead end street -- for Negroes.

For most all of these different groups, education -- more education, is now with in their reach. For the veteran, regardless of color, the money is available from the Federal government to pay the expences. The term, education, is being defined broasly in order to cover a wide variety of needs. The education may be on college or grade school lever. It maybe training while you work, or a uell scale program of formal education. It maybe training in a profession, for a trade, or in agriculture. It can serve to answer the needs of the veteran in most every situation.

There are two things that aren't done by the Federal Government. One is to actually set up the courses, although help maybe given in that. The second is to force the veteran to take advantage of them after they are set up. The first of these must be handled by interested people in a position to set up the program. The second must be handled by the veterans, but local groups and individuals can give much aid and encouragement.

What is being done for Negro veterans in North Carolina? How much are they taking advantage of their opportunities? What can be done to improve the situation? These are questions that will be partially answered in the following paragraphs.

The writer has visited all different kinds of offices set up to aid veterans, Employment Service Offices, Guidance Centers, high schools with training programs, and has corresponded with many places and persons that have not been visited.

On- the-job -training: There have been few placements of Negroes in this tupe of training. One large city reports 50 but another reports only 2. Mu estimate wo wo ld be that the total number of Negroes in on-the-job-training is aroung 100. Why are there so few?

There is reported "little cooperation on the part of business and industrial firms to set up programs, particularly to use Negroes. There are few opportuniti in industry for Negroes that require any 'training'. Then also there is a defint te lack in most places of a systematic attempt to open more opportunities.

In one city, a Negro committe, surveyed the needs of their community. They found that they needed a drug store, a garage, and other places of business. Then they set about getting training for some veterans that were interested in providing such needs.

On-the-farm-training: This program has gone much further than the job training one, and is still advancing. There are 94 Negro Vocational Agriculture Teachers in North Carolina. Of these 30 had a program in operation for veterans, the last of September, which took in 678 men. These courses are supervised by a wualified Negro from the State Agricultural A nd Teniohnical College. The program, while in a few cases is perhaps a little superficial, is ne general, filling one of the greatest needs,in,teaching thsee men better farm practices.

Institutional Training: In the Colleges of North Carolina there are ___ Negro Veterans receiving training. This number includes two Off Campus Centers which have been set up. North Carolina Colleges, as all others in the country, are over run. To take care of the over-flow, centers to provide college freshmen courses have been set up by the State, in any city that had a large enough group interested in enrolling. There are approximately 14 such senters in North Carolina, of which two are for Negroes.

A large number of veterans however aren't prepared for college, or aren't interested in going to college. A start has been made toward filling their needs in the high schools. So far __ high Schools have programs for veterans . Some of these are well developed trade classes and academic classes suited to meet immediate practical needs. Others are designed to quailfy one for a high school diploma of to fit him for entrance to college. The veteran is not kept in 'grades but is taught and allowed to advance as rapidly as he is capable of doing. It is reported that one person with no previous high school training, completed the courses and received his high school diploma in six months. He was then ready for college if desired.

Another interesting program has developed at a rural school. A group of veterans want to be able to read and write satisfactorily, and to be able to keep financial records of their income and out-go. Such a program is being worked out and may well include education for intelligent use of the ballot, the need for eating a balanced diet, and how to rotate crops so as to keep the land in good shape

The opportunities for developing this type of program are limited only by the interest of the veterans, and the cooperation of school officials. They may be hindered by other factors, but they are not insurmountable.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

There are job openings and there are people looking for jobs. Negro veterans will find no difficulty getting a job, if he will go back to the same jobs that were available him when he went away. A large number aren't willing to do this. In the army they learned new skills and new interests were awakened that makes them more descriminating. Alsonduring the war they were made to feel that they had rights in this democracy, and at the Separation Centers they were led to believe that better jobs in more responsible positions would be a available for them back at home. Such was not the case.

The Employment Service is working at the problem of opening a wider range of opportunities. There are ten divisional offices in the State that are staffed with Negroes and some of these work on that angle. None of these that I contacted felt that there were any more job opportunities for Negroes now than there were before the war, regardless of whether it was a veteran of not. They were not optomistic about the future.

VETERANS SERVICE OFFICES

The North Carolina Commission on Veterans Services is an organization set up by the State Legislature to aid service men. They operate through a central office and thirteen district offices. All of the employees of this Commission are white.

Ninty Nine out of one hundred counties of the State have local services officers. These men are hired by the counties and cities with-in the counties. Charlotte in Mecklenburg county is the only local office to have a Negro employee. A few few of the county and city Veterans Commissions have a Negro representative.

I have visited a number of district and local offices. All of the officers seemed sincere when they said, as they all did, " a veteran gets the same treatment in this office regardless of creed of color. We see him only as a veteran. I talked with officials about the use of Negro officers. The general answer is that the work is being done irrespective of color, that a Negro could not be used to aid white veterans, that to employ Negroes would mean duplication and unnecessary expenxe.

It is well known that in any bi-racial society there will be much duplication of services and added expense. It is also evident that any semblance of 'separate but equal' opportunities must include job opportunities. If State financed programs do not allow opportunity for Negro employment, there is little hooe that other organizations will utilize Negro talent.

The Veteeans Administration employs more than a thousand workers in North Car. servicing veterans. They have been energetic in incouraging the setting up of all kinds of training programs for Negro veterans, and some are doing well. So far however they have only sex Negroes employed. These staff two Guidance Centers one at Agricultural and Tenhnical College, Greensboro, and one at North Carolina College, Durham. These centers are doing fine work. The V. A. has indicated its interest in utilizing more Negro employees and something may be worked out.

It is interesting and dissappointing to find that, in spite ofthe fact that more that one fifth of North Carolina's service men were Negroes, out of more than 1200 people employed by county, city, State and federal agencies to aid veterans, only 8 are Negro. (This does not include the USEmployment Service)

Veterans Organizations

~~American Legion:~~No veterans organization has done much to organize the Negro veterans. Out of the approximate 100,000 of so Negro veterans in North Carolina only approximately _____ belong to any organization and a number of these belong to relatively unknown groups.

American Legion: The most of the Negro veterans that are members of any organization are members of the Legion. There are something like 5,000 members last year and they are striving to make it 10,000 this year. A large proportion of that number are veterans of the last war. Up until this last year, the Negro Legionairre has been in the postition of paying his dues, but reaping none of the benefits. Division B, which contains all the Negroes, under its energetic commander, has petitioned the White Legion for full states in the organization. They have already been accorded a number of privileges, and many persons seem very optomistic about the chance of receiving rall status at the next state convention. They

Veterans Of Foreign Wars: This year is the first year that the V. of F.W. has had much of an organization for Negroes and it is still small. There are less than 1000 members.

Veterans Committee:

National Council for Negro Veterans.

Other:

What Would Help?

1- Every city and county should have a vigorous committee whose purpose would be to a- Contact every veteran, tell him of his opportunities and ecourage him to take advantage of them. b- Survey the needs of their community as for business and professional services and interest some veterans intraining for them. c-Develop job-training, farm-training, institutional training, to meet all needs. d-Be an up to date source of information on veterans services.

2- The North Carolina Commission on Veterans Services, the Veterans Administration, and local sercice agencies should utilize Negro employees even if it means some duplication.

3- The Veterans organizations should conduct a drive to get the veterans in organized and then give them information and incouragement to take advantage of every opportunity.

4- Every school teacher, (high schooland college), business men, and other civic minded individuals should make it their business to find out what the veterans want and need, interest them in broadening their vision, and help them to get into a program that is satisfactory/-

This is not a complete list of "What would Help". But anythinh less than this is to little.

November 26, 1946

Mr. Cyrus M. Johnson
North Carolina Commission on Interracial Cooperation
336 S. Salisbury Street
Raleigh, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Johnson:

I have sent Dr. Clift a copy of each of our recent publications.

I will be glad to send these pamphlets to anybody whom you might list to me. We have put Dr. Clift on the mailing list and shall try to keep him informed.

The Council's usual rate for mileage is five cents. I personally, when taking quite a long trip, charge the Council only four cents. Suppose we make it a rule that for travel by car to points within a hundred miles, you would charge us five cents a mile, and for any quite long trip - as, say, to Silver or Murphy - the rate would be four cents. I leave you to claim whichever is appropriate.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

TELEPHONE 3-1911

North Carolina Commission on Interracial Cooperation

336 S. SALISBURY ST.

Raleigh, N. C.

DIRECTOR
CYRUS M. JOHNSON

GENERAL OFFICERS

HONORARY CHAIRMAN
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RALEIGH

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SECRETARY-TREASURER
C. C. SPAULDING
DURHAM

CHAIRMAN BOARD OF FINANCE
GURNEY P. HOOD
RALEIGH

November 20, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Ave., N. E.
Atlanta 3, Ga.

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

I have asked Dr. Clift of A. & T. College to send you a copy of their News Letter on veterans services and he said he would do so.

Do you have a mailing list that you send published surveys to? Dr. Clift would like to have a copy of each. There are others also that would like to receive copies of them if you are interested in sending them.

Dr. Virgil A. Clift, A. & T College, Greensboro, N. C. is the name and address and he is Director of Veterans Education at A. & T.

The comments were well taken and I hope to get more specific dope.

Sincerely,

Cyrus M. Johnson

Cyrus M. Johnson

P.S. What does the SRC allow for car travel -- if I am able to use one?

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A. E. MANLEY
N. C. NEWBOLD
J. E. SHEPARD
E. T. THOMPSON
MRS. L. B. YANCEY

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CHAIRMAN BOARD OF FINANCE
GURNEY P. HOOD
RALEIGH

December 7, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Ave. N. E.
Atlanta 3, Ga.

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

This is another one of those 'excuse' letters. I just haven't done anything on the veterans services lately. I am not discouraged or down cast about it. I just have had to work on other things.

I have been trying to work out an arrangement with one of the Professors at Shaw to do some traveling with him. He is interested in the veterans angle and is interested in collecting material on cooperative activities in the State. I think we may work out something when I get the time.

It is just imperative that we get our finances in better shape and a little more definite structure of an organization if we are to operate. When I'll be able to get them under control I just don't know. I hope soon.

Sincerely,

Cyrus M. Johnson

Cyrus M. Johnson

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N. C. NEWBOLD
J. E. SHEPARD
E. T. THOMPSON
MRS. L. B. YANCEY

Field Agent

December 27, 1946

Mr. Cyrus Johnson
356 S. Salisbury Street
Raleigh, N. C.

Dear Mr. Johnson:

I intend to be in Raleigh pretty much all day Monday, January 6. Mostly I want some figures on veterans training benefits.

I hope I will find you there and can get help from you.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Zimmerman Lith Cincinnati, O.

VIRGINIA SMITHFIELD HAM
AAA
OFFICIAL HOTEL
STONEWALL HOTEL
FRANKLIN — VIRGINIA
DINING ROOM AND COFFEE SHOP
T. P. HYLTON
OWNERSHIP-MANAGEMENT

Nansemond Hotel
Suffolk, Va
9 July 46

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

On Sunday, 14 July 1946, I will have an opportunity to speak before the Independent Voters League of Suffolk and Nansemond Counties. Representatives of the Southern Congressional District of Virginia (Democrat) will be in attendance. There will be several hundred Negro Veterans present representing Norfolk, Princess Anne, Nansemond, Southampton and Isle of Wight counties. I think this a fine opportunity.

Mr. Moses Riddick (RIDDICK) of the Independent Voters League, E. Washington St., Suffolk, Virginia asked if I could provide any literature concerning on-the-job training. I told him I would try.

I think your pamphlet titled, "On the Job Instruction offered 78's" -- subtitle -- Veterans Who Left School Early Have Fine Chance, reprint from the Norfolk Journal & Guide, 9 Jul 46, would be a proper answer. Please send me several hundred copies if they are in print and as soon as possible.

FRIED CHICKEN VIRGINIA STYLE

(over)

I am enclosing a paper ~~essay~~ may be interested in. So far this organization has not made notable progress in their area.

Yours Very Truly,
Emory T. Jeffery

Sent 300 On-file T.A.C.T.
" 50 " Form "

7/10/46
aec

Send the paper to Stetson Kennedy.

July 19, 1946

Mr. Emory T. Judy
c/o Richmond Urban League
112 W. Charity Street
Richmond, Virginia

Dear Mr. Judy:

I am glad to have your letter of July 8th. You are writing just as I had hoped you would. The only addition I would suggest is a list attached to each weekly report of the names, post office addresses, telephone numbers - if you happen to get them - and some characterization of the useful people whom you interview, or hear accurately about. Please also state as to Negro or white on the list.

The twenty-dollar-a-week thing is a problem. I find it easy to get sympathy for the claiming against it, but it is enabling Negro veterans and plenty of white veterans to look around while they hold out for better than menial employment.

Also, generally speaking, I am hearing that where veterans servicing officials bestir themselves and offer either decent jobs or decent trade training to veterans, the men will either drop the twenty bucks for the better opportunity or avoid the twenty bucks and go at once into the better opportunity. So be a bit suspicious of the service officer who wrings his hands and denounces the rocking chair club. That may be an excuse for his own inaction, prejudice, or lack of imagination.

You are doing just right to get to the various church assemblies. I did not tell you what I should have as to the Virginia affiliate of the Southern Regional Council. The old Virginia Interracial Committee is now a sub-agency of the Virginia

Council of Churches, which puts up a modest amount for the interracial committee work. The committee has as its executive secretary Mr. Thomas C. Allen, Room 215, 1444 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia. I am a bit uncertain as to whether the committee is formally affiliated with the Southern Regional Council, but in any case the relationship is most cordial. Mr. Allen is a good fellow, a former Baptist minister, and he will help you in many ways. Please go and see him the next time you are in Richmond.

The best information people in Norfolk are the couple who handle the Veterans Information Center. They are Mr. and Mrs. Sydney Usher. Please give them my regards.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

228 Locust Street
Covington, Virginia
July 8, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans' Services
Room 432, 63 Auburn Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

Monday morning, July 1, I drove from Covington to Richmond, Virginia. Along the way I stopped at three small towns: Trevilians, Louisa, and Mineral. There I talked with a total of about a dozen veterans. Several of the things you had warned me about came out in these conversations. In all cases I talked with Negroes. The first town, I met them in a gas station; the second, a general store; and the third, in a Negro restaurant. I asked a few questions before I started talking about the Bill. My questions and the responses ran something like this: 1)"Have you heard of the G. I. Bill?" Some said yes, some no. 2) "Do you know that as veterans with honorable discharges you are eligible for benefits under this bill?" Very vague yes, positive no. 3) "Do you know where to find out about the bill?" All had ideas, but few were certain. 4) "Have you heard of on-the-job or on-the-farm training under the G. I. Bill?" To this, I had one answer in the affirmative.

I then proceeded to tell them about on-the-job and on-the-farm training. Much to my disgust (at myself) I found that they did not understand my explanation. I used illustrations and repetition until I think a faint gleam came to them. I hope so, anyway. Very few of them had finished high school and very few had finished grammar school. At least I gained an insight into one of the difficulties I would encounter in the future.

Tuesday morning, I visited the Richmond Urban League and talked to Mr. Wiley Hall and Mr. L. W. ("Duck") Davis. I was very favorably impressed with both of these gentlemen and have learned a great deal about the Negro situation in Richmond and its vicinity.

They asked me to stay in Richmond for several days so they could acquaint me with the Negro veteran's problem in that city. I spent Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday afternoon in their company. During that time, they called a meeting of several prominent civic leaders for the express purpose of acquainting me with the problems confronting them in trying to place veterans for on-the-job training. I have never met a more chastened and disheartened <u>but determined</u> group of men than these people were. Seemingly, they have tried every means possible to help their veterans, but have met with little success. For example, they have been able to get but one high school authorized to give a course in auto mechanics, and that only for the summer months. (This is within the Richmond area.) That was accomplished through the Smith-Hughes Act and not through the Veterans' Administration.

Another example: they have encouraged many veterans to apply to the Veterans' Administration for jobs, but nothing happens. The veteran never hears from the V.A. and when he inquires, is told that his application is under consideration, or else that they are not hiring anyone just now. Another reply is that the applicant is not properly qualified. All of these answers have been proved incorrect. Mr. Davis has sent a white person who does not have as much education or experience relating to whatever job is thought to be open, along with a Negro who has both qualifications. The result, as you well know, is that the white person was given consideration, but the Negro was given the proverbial run-around. Thus far Mr. Davis's efforts to get Negro personnel into the V. A. have resulted in placement of one person in recent weeks.

Another statement that came out during the meeting, which caught me by surprise, was made by a Negro employee of the U. S. Employment Service. He stated that Unemployment Compensation for the rehabilitation of the veteran was one of the worst laws Congress has passed, from the Negro viewpoint. Immediately, I got his point. Mr. Davis and the others present were in accord with the above statement. It makes the problem doubly hard in trying to persuade the Negro to take training.

This gentleman from the Employment Service expressed reluctance to encourage veterans to apply for training when he knew they would be rebuffed. I urged him and all the conferees to continue trying to get the veteran interested in job or farm training. I told him that the Southern Regional Council wanted to know about these situations and would do everything possible to try and help relieve them. I made no commitments or promises for reasons which were acutely obvious to us all.

There are about 5,000 Negro veterans in the city of Richmond. About 50 have applied for on-the-job training. Approximately 300 to 400 jobs have been found for the nearly 600 veterans who have contacted the U. S. Employment office. (These figures are approximate. Please verify them if you wish to use them for permanent records or publication.)

While in Richmond, I contacted the No. 4 Branch office of the Veterans' Administration and learned quite a bit about the organizational set-up of the V. A. I also went to see Mr. Crittenden, Veterans' Division of the State Board of Education, located at 1203 E. Broad Street. Next, I visited Mr. T.J. Hahn, Vocational Director, State Office Building. He was not in, but I talked to a Mr. Cale, second in command. He informed me that on-the-farm training and/or institutional farm training was just getting under way in the state of Virginia. This department had on record as of July 3, 1946, 359 on-the-farm trainees. There is no breakdown of colored and white.

Mr. Hahn had attended a state association of Negro teachers in Portsmouth, Virginia a few days before. 40 of the 52 teachers of agriculture in the state were present. Mr. Hahn spent two and a half hours explaining the salient points of the on-the-farm training program to them.

There was one thing which was characteristic of every office into which I ventured. Each one emphasizes the fact that they do not solicit, and that the veteran has to find his own outlet--i.e., employer.

As a result of my contacts in Richmond, I now have tracts, lists, and pamphlets covering the following:

1. Veterans' Administration Contact Station list for North Carolina and Virginia.
2. Veterans' Administration itinerant points in the Richmond Branch, No. 4.
3. Statement of policies and training under Public Law 346, state of Virginia.
4. Information for veterans interesting in receiving training in vocational agriculture in Virginia.
5. Educational Opportunities in Virginia (a handbook for veterans and their advisors).
6. Agricultural high schools of Virginia, instructors, and locations.
7. Training agencies approved to provide training for veterans under the provision of Public Law 346.
8. Adjustment of Negro veterans (prepared by the National Urban League).
9. Alphabetical listing of specific services performed for veterans, and the city, state, and federal agencies in the Richmond area charged with their administration.

Mr. Davis and Mr. Hall suggested that one of the best ways for me to accomplish my purpose would be to contact various church conventions to be held within the state during the months of July and August. I thought the idea a sound one. They have provided me with a list of these conventions and I shall try to attend as many as possible. Mr. Hall and Mr. Davis informed me that the first of these was to be held in Portsmouth on the 5th and 6th. I rushed to Portsmouth on Friday and found that I had been misinformed. The meeting is to be held the 10th and 11th.

I have contacted the Rev. S. L. Scott, 1816 Effingham St., Portsmouth, and he has asked me to speak Monday, July 8th, at a ministers' conference of Norfolk, Portsmouth, and vicinity, to be held at the First Baptist Church, Norfolk, Virginia. On Wednesday, July 10th, I shall speak at the Dinwiddie Women's Convention, Dinwiddie, Virginia, and on Thursday, the 11th, at the Norfolk Union Baptist Association, Olive Branch Church, Olive Branch, Virginia.

The Rev. Scott is not familiar with the Southern Regional Council and he believes that very few people in this area are aware that the group exists. I shall include a brief statement of the purposes of the Council when talking to these people.

I haven't accomplished very much in actual contacting of the veterans this week; however, I hope to show greater progress from now on, as I am more cognizant of the problems involved.

An interesting sidelight of my stay in Richmond has to do with another of the nation's problems. After registering at a hotel Monday evening, I proceeded to the dining room for dinner. The following evening, I ate there again, and every meal on the menu had gone up twenty cents. Hotel rates have not gone up as yet.

I would appreciate it if you would tell me whether you would prefer that my reports be written up in some form other than the way in which this one is submitted. I shall be glad to use any form which will expedite your coordinating them with your other records.

Sincerely,

Emory T. Judy

Emory T. Judy

ETJ:mcj

Inflat + good

Report to Dr. George S. Mitchell, Southern Regional Council

Monday, July 22, 1946, I had to place my car in a garage for needed repairs. I visited Mr. Cale, Supervisor of Agricultural Education, State Office Bldg., Richmond, Virginia. I wished to ask a couple of questions about on-the-farm training. Mr. Cale is a tall, lanky gentleman in his late forties or early fifties, dignified in appearance, well spoken, and has a courteous and efficient manner with strangers. He answered my questions quickly and concisely. He claims that the greatest drawback to the farm training program right now is the lack of teachers. He told me to spread the word around in the state and try to interest competent people in the job. A man does not have to have a degree but he does have to be a progressive, successful farmer with the ability to teach others and to take instructions himself. Mr. Cale emphasized these qualifications.

Mr. Cale impressed me as being willing to do everything possible for the Veteran. That is his job. I noticed that he did not choose to make but very few remarks when I was talking about the Negroes as a race. In other words, he struck me as being very cool on the subject of the Negro; however, he was diplomatic about it. Of course, someone else might get a different reaction.

Tuesday, the Rev. Walter White and I visited the North River Women's Convention, Oak Hill Baptist Church, Enonville, Va., in Buckingham County. The Rev. J. W. Booker is the pastor of this church. I was given an opportunity to speak for about 30 minutes. There were approximately 50 or 60 people present. It had rained the entire morning, so the attendance was limited.

Mr. White is a general field worker and missionary for colored people in Virginia. His address is 1201 Idlewood Street, Richmond, Virginia. He works for three organizations: Virginia Baptist Board of Education (white group), the Baptist General Association (colored), and theVirginia Baptist State Convention (colored). He has been doing this work for 17 years; therefore he is well known to the Negroes throughout the state. With his running interference for me I really get a wonderful response. Mr. White is one of the most remarkable Negroes I have ever known. He is about six feet tall, a fine looking man with a few grey hairs. I had privately estimated his age at about thirty-five. The other day I asked how old he was, and he answered "Fifty years." It seemed incredible. He said that 15 year old girls were still giving him the eye, and I can well believe that statement. He is not fifty years old mentally, but is a person who practices stern self-discipline. He is a World War I veteran, and a graduate of Virginia Union in Richmond.

July 24th we visited the Southside Rappahannock Baptist Association held with the Grafton Baptist Church, Harmony Village, Va., where there were about 200 in attendance. The Rev. Russell Jones was the pastor and Dr. B. H. Gayles, Saluda, Va., was the moderator. I spoke for 15 or 20 minutes and answered a few questions during the lunch recess. I talked to one veteran who had applied for a loan to start in business two different times, the last time

being about three months ago. Both times he was told by the V.A. in Richmond that no organizations had been set up for loan provisions. Naturally this veteran felt that he had been given the runaround. Noone in the V. A. had bothered to explain to him that he should go to a bank or similar lending agency, nor had they given him any information whatsoever about proper procedures in obtaining a loan.

Another veteran who has tried to find an employer for on-the-job training as a carpenter has met with little success. One contractor wished to "hire" him but did not want to pay for his services, stating that the government subsistence was enough. Of course the boy would not take the job. The contractor would not have been approved by the V. A. under that arrangement, and the boy had had carpentry experience before going into the service, so such a plan did not appeal to him.

The Rev. Mr. Russell Jones is a man about 28 yrs. old, weighs about 160 lbs., is about 5 ft., 10 inches tall, and is extremely energetic. His church is the prettiest I have been in to date. Mr. Jones was one of the representatives of the United States to the International Youth Conference in London. His predominant interest seems to be in Y.M.C.A. work. He would be a very good man to contact. He is very well versed on theBill and has been actively promoting it in his community; in fact, he preached a couple of sermons on it.

The Rev. Mr. B.H. Gayle, Saluda, Va., and Professor D. C. Rawley of Urbana are also good contacts in this section.

We drove that afternoon to Antioch Church at Goochland, Va., in Powhatan County. There were about 150 people assembled. I spoke to the group here, but didnot have an opportunity to talk with any of them individually. Mr. Finney, vocational agriculture teacher of Powhatan County, was present and I told him about my conversation with Mr. Cale on Monday. He is trying to locate an additional teacher for his county, since there are more veterans interested than he can accommodate. Apparently he is following through on his promise to promote on-the-farm training in his area.

Thursday I drove to the Five Fork Baptist Church, South Boston, Va. I was given a chance to speak just before the close of the meeting. The church was packed to capacity. This meeting seems to be a general holiday for the entire county. There were several thousand people on the grounds of the church where a few amusement stands and cold drink dispensers were available. If I had known what a large gathering this was going to be, I could have arranged to spend the two days of the meeting in South Boston and contacted large numbers of veterans.

The Rev. L. E. Coleman, moderator, gave me a few minutes to speak and also tried to get as many veterans as possible into the church in the interim. Mr. Coleman is a short compactly built Negro, about fifty years old, who gets a great deal of pleasure out of preaching to his congregation about the sins they commit in their daily living.

Friday morning I visited Mr. J. S. Carrington, undertaker, insurance salesman, preacher, interracial organizer, and member of the N.A.A.C.P. He wished to question me on several things about the Bill and told me about some interracial incidents which have occurred recently in Halifax County, and which might be indicative of a trend for the future which is all bad. One Negro veteran was almost killed recently when attacked by some white men because of a fancied insult. Word of this spread throughout the Negro population of Halifax County. The local court passed sentence on the Negro veteran, fining him $500.00 and sentencing him to two years in jail. The case was appealed to ahigher court andwhen this court was in session there were estimated to be 6,000 Negroes in and about the courthouse. Their indignation was such that they were ready to carry the case to the Supreme Court, if necessary. The net result was that the justice-dispensers got hot fingers and cold feet, and threw the case out of court through a technicality.

Another case was being tried that morning concerning a Negro veteran. He went into a cafe in South Boston for a bottle of pop. There was a juke box playing and quite a bit of conversation, so he raised his voice in an effort to be heard when he asked for the pop. The clerk told the Negro not to "holler" at him. The Negro replied that he was not "hollering" but was merely trying to speak loudly enough to be heard above the general din. Three men and the clerk (all white) jumped on the Negro and gave him a terrific beating. The Negro finally got away from them and went out the door to the taxi which had been waiting for him. The taxi was owned and driven by a young white veteran. The Negro jumped into the taxi and told the driver to start moving, but before the taxi-driver could start the car, the four white men had come out of the cafe, shoved a gun under the taxi-driver's nose, took his keys, jumped in the car, and beat and kicked the Negro some more.

The story that the four white men tell is that the Negro had been in the cafe for 15 or 20 minutes, and seemed to be in a truculent mood; that when he became too disorderly, they attempted to throw him out.

The taxi-driver is standing up for the Negro veteran and has sworn out warrants for the four men for holding him up. His testimony is that the Negro was not in the cafe over a minute before the trouble started, because when he pulled up to let the Negro out, he turned on his radio and the radio was just beginning to play when all the ruction started.

Mr. Carrington andothers in South Boston are worried about this case and others like it. They feel that the tension is very real in Halifax County and that trouble might be expected any time.

Several years ago an interracial committee was set up in South Boston. For the first year it worked very well; quite a few problems were solved. Recently it has deteriorated through lack of interest on the part of the white people, until now it exists in name only.

I also talked to Dr. L. V. Ragland, a Negro dentist, and he told me the same things that Mr. Carrington had told me. Either one of these gentlemen would be interested in any information that the S. R.C. could give them and would be willing to send any information that S.R.C. requested to Atlanta.

From here, I journeyed up to Halifax, Virginia, county seat of Halifax County. I talked to Mrs. Willie A. Sykes, Box 309, Halifax, Virginia. She is assistant superintendent of Negro schools in Halifax County. In my conversation with her I found that the veterans she knew believed that the itinerant V. A. representatives who came to Halifax were there only for the benefit of the white veterans. I told her that this was an entirely wrong conception and asked her to urge the veterans to contact V.A. officers with any problems.

Saturday morning I went to the V. A. office, Post Office Building, Danville, Virginia, and talked to Mr. Travis and Mr. Hamlin, itinerant V. A.officer working out of Danville. I told him of my experience in Halifax County and he said that he would do everything he could to eliminate that feeling. Both of these white men have the Southerner's attitude toward the Negro. I am growing very tired of hearing the phrase "keep them in their place." Nevertheless, when a Negro veteran comes into that office I am certain that he gets the same consideration as the white one. I feel accurate in my judgment because I was tenth in line waiting to see these men. They did everything they could to make the veterans feel at ease and relaxed while talking to them.

Saturday afternoon I tried to contact a number of people in Pittsylvania County. In every instance I had no luck.

Mr. R.J. Jones (col.), Gretna, Va., superintendent of Negro schools in Pittsylvania County, was going to summer school. His wife informed me that he had been very active in helping the veterans. I told her about the Southern Regional Council and suggest that you use Mr. Jones as a possible contact for the future. I tried to see the county agent, but he was out of town; I also tried to see Mrs. Marian E. Sydnor, Chatham, Va., asst. superintendent of colored schools, but she was away on vacation.

My general observation of the situation in Pittsylvania County and Halifax County (and I am told it is similar in other counties) is this: there is tension between the races which is becoming more pronounced as time goes on. The white people feel secure in their ignorance, whereas the educated Negro is doing his best to suppress any outbursts or disorders within his race.

Emory T. Judy
July 28, 1946

July 22, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Veterans' Services Division
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta 3, Ga.

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

I am happy to have received your letter of July 19th. From this date forward, I shall attach a list of the useful people I encounter and include the qualification of Negro or white.

I have already contacted Mr. Thomas C. Allen of the Virginia Council of Churches, as I stated in my last week's report. He impressed upon me the fact that I would encounter a good deal of skepticism in trying to get across my message. I give him full credit for a great store of past experience to draw upon, but I believe that if I can convince the Negroes of my sincerity, that I shall be able to relieve this attitude somewhat.

A bit of bad luck came my way to-day. I noticed a new noise under my car, so I took it to a garage recommended by Mr. Hall. I am afraid that my differential will have to be torn down. They expect to have the car ready by tomorrow.

Meanwhile, I should be able to do some useful work in Richmond. I wish to visit Mr. T.J. Hahn, agricultural division, State Dept. of Education, to get some further information for on-the-farm training. I want to include this information in the article for the Virginia Education Bulletin.

Perhaps I should go into a little more detail concerning my conversation with Dr. J. Rupert Picott (Negro), executive secretary of the Virginia Association for Education.

Dr. Picott is a fine looking, energetic man in his early thirties, and is the editor of the Virginia Education Bulletin. He asked that I write an article for his magazine. I asked whether he would be interested in articles of the Southern Regional Council which have to do with theG. I. Bill. He replied that, being an editor, he liked original material written specifically for his magazine, rather than reprints. Therefore, I shall attempt to write an article for him and will send it to you for prior approval. I believe that Dr. Picott would furnish an excellent outlet for any of your writings in the future on the educational benefits of the Bill.

I was truly amazed at the expenses I incurred for the week of July 7-14. Hereafter, I will enclose a copy of my hotel bills with my reports.

Thank you very much for the cards.

Sincerely,
Emory Judy
E. T. Judy

RECEIVED
JUL 24 1946
Southern Regional Council
VETERANS SERVICES

Report to Dr. George S. Mitchell, Southern Regional Council

Monday, July 15th, Mr. Cates and I contacted the Suffolk Chamber of Commerce to see whether any survey had been made to determine job opportunities for veterans, We talked with the president, who indicated that they were very much interested in promoting on-the-job training, but had not yet put their interest into concrete action. After some discussion, a plan was formulated to send questionnaires and information to industries and businesses in and around Suffolk. We decided that in this manner employers could be acquainted with the on-the-job program and the location of the Veterans' Administration office, and by their response an estimate could be obtained of the number of jobs which would be available to veteranswho applied. The Chamber of Commerce also plans to conduct a publicity campaign on the G. I. Bill.

Monday afternoon I stopped in James City County and Warwick County on Route 60. In Warwick I talked to Mr. J. H. Yoder of the Colony Farms Dairy, a county co-operative dairy. He promised to disseminate information about on-the-job and on-the-farm training. He emphasized the fact that the dairy farmers and truck farmers of Warwick County could not compete with the wage scale of Newport News and Hampton, industrial areas. I also talked with the superintendent of schools. I stopped in Williamsburg and Toano, and several other places in James City County.

Tuesday morning I reported in to the Richmond Urban League to see whether there were any further instructions and to talk over my work with Mr. Davis. Tuesday afternoon I drove to Alexandria to obtain some much needed funds. En route I picked up five veterans three of whom were interested in taking on-the-job training. One was interested in metal work, another in carpentry. One of them had been in the marines for five years and had spent 44 months overseas. While he was overseas, he had sent home an amount in excess of $10,000. Upon returning to the states, he found that he had no money at all, and no home. His wife had spent it all in riotous living. She divorced him, taking their five year old son. Heis now collecting 70% disability, and is interested in educational benefits, but is still much too confused and bitter to be sure what he wants to do.

Wednesday morning I went down to the V. A. office in Alexandria, 815 King Street. This office is under the Washington Regional Office. I talked to Mr. Williams, whose English accent is very pleasing to the ear. His was the nicest set of offices I have yet seen. There is plenty of reading material on education and vocational training available in the waiting room. Mr. Williams was very disgusted with the length of time taken for business establishments to be approved for on-the-job training. He stated that there was too much red-tape, and mentioned some methods of eliminating it; e.g., having more field men in the state department of education, and spending less time on the trainee itinerary for businessmen, which is usually disregarded anyhow. The office was unusually busy. I had to wait about two hours. Mr. Williams stated unofficially that about 500 people inquired in his office about on-the-job training in the past two months. He also mentioned with disfavor the 52/20 Club

and their "rocking chair" money.

I came back via Route 1 to Fredericksburg, Route 17 to Tappahannock and Route 360 to Richmond. Mr. Davis had asked me to stop Thursday, as he had some work he wanted me to do for him. He had been trying to get some boys in civil service jobs, but the boys had not been able to get application forms. Mr. Davis thought that they were being given the runaround again. I was sent down to the local civil service office and asked for applications for clerk-carrier. I was also told that the application forms were not available, but left my address and was told that they would be mailed. Mr. Davis acquainted me with the details of their efforts to get automotive mechanic training under the G. I. Bill. So far there is but one auto-mechanic training program in the entire city of Richmond for Negro veterans. This class is in the Armstrong High School (colored) and operates under the Smith-Hughes Act. It has been approved only for the summer months. There is one instructor for 18 veteran trainees and inadequate tools and supplies. They have a very limited space in the school for this work. No effort has been made on the part of the city board of education to obtain additional facilities or instructors, or to transfer this class to the status of on-the-job training under theG. I. Bill. A number of these veterans have dependents and under the Smith-Hughes program there is no subsistence for them, which, of course, imposes quite a hardship. Mr. Davis and others of his committee on veterans' problems have canvassed the entire city of Richmond in attempting to place Negro veterans in on-the-job training. They found two white garages that would hire Negroes as trainees, thereby providing seven men with on-the-job training. Mr. Davis and Mr. Savage, of U.S.E.S. assured me that they could obtain at least 50 men who would like to be placed as trainees for auto-mechanics.

Within the past week the city board of education has undergone a reorganization and Mr. Davis and other Negro civic leaders have been applying pressure. They have been promised action in the near future.

Thursday afternoon I drove over into King William County to speak before the Pamunkey Church School Convention at Mount Olive Church. My information was that the convention was to be of two days duration, but upon arrival I learned that it had lasted only one day. I stopped at a Negro blacksmith and wheelwright shop near Walkerton, where there were about half a dozen people loafing. They informed me that the meeting had ended the day before. I gave them some of my tracts and explained on-the-job and on-the-farm training to them. They directed me to Mr. Carter, county vocational agriculture teacher for the Negroes. Mr. Carter had graduated from Virginia State College in June and was not too well informed about on-the-farm training; however, he indicated a strong interest in this work. I asked him if he would try to determine in traveling through the county, the number of veterans who would be interested in on-the-farm training; then, if he could get enough interested he would write to Richmond for further information about setting up a program in that county. He promised to contact me in the future.

In view of the past few days which seemed to have had more than their share of lost motion and wasted time, I went back to see whether the Urban League had been successful in their efforts to

obtain more accurate information. They were awaiting the return of the Rev. Mr. White who, they felt sure, could give us correct dates on the association meetings.

Next I visited Dr. Allen, Executive Secretary of the Interracial Committee of the Virginia Council of Churches. He explained to me the problems which he had encountered in interracial work in Virginia, and we talked over the methods of approach which I had been using. He suggested that whenever possible in going to these meetings, I go with Mr. White (whom most of the Negro congregations know well) or carry a letter of introduction from him. In this way some of their natural skepticism could be avoided.

Friday afternoon I went to see Dr. J. Rupert Picott, Executive Secretary of the Virginia Education Association, and editor of the Virginia Education Bulletin. He thought my work very worthwhile and seemed glad to help in any way possible. (Incidentally, he is a member of S.R.C.) He gave me a list of vocational agriculture teachers and superintendents of schools in those counties which have the largest Negro populations. He offered to reserve space in the September issue of the Virginia Education Bulletin if I wished to write an article about on-the-job and on-the-farm training.

I went to see Mr. Bradshaw, president of Virginia Mutual Life Insurance Company, who is prominent in Negro civic affairs and interracial work in Richmond. He has twenty Negro boys as trainees in his office.

Saturday morning, I finally got to see the Rev. Mr. White and together we mapped out a prospective itinerary for the coming week. I shall accompany him to several meetings.

Saturday afternoon I contacted Mr. Finney, vocational agriculture teacher in Powhatan County. He promised to try to interest veterans in that area in on-the-farm training, and thought that there might be many who would want it.

Emory Trenton Judy
July 21, 1946

6 Steps to On-the-Job Training

1. File application (Form 1950) with nearest V.A. office. V.A. will process it and send you a Certificate of Eligibility.

2. Pick the trade you want to learn and the firm where you wish to learn it.

3. Not all firms are on the "approved" list. Most V.A. offices maintain a list for their area.

4. When you enter training, give the firm your Certificate of Eligibility to be endorsed and forwarded to V.A.

5. V.A. will then enroll you to receive a subsistence allowance, tools and supplies.

6. During training you may receive up to $65 mo., if without dependents, or $90 mo, with dependents, plus your wages.

VETERANS HOUSING QUESTIONNAIRE

This survey is being conducted to obtain a true picture of what type of housing is desired and needed in this Community. With this information we hope to formulate a building program in the City for permanent housing. Your cooperation is requested by the Alexandria Emergency Housing Committee appointed upon the request of Federal Housing Expediter Wilson Wyatt, who is attempting to break the construction bottleneck and curtail the building Black Market.

Please fill out the following Questionnaire and submit to the Alexandria Veterans Information & Service Center, 112 South Washington Street, Alexandria, Virginia.

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____ RACE _____

I am interested in renting an apartment and can afford to pay a rent of:

$_____ Per Month for 1 Bedroom Apartment

$_____ Per Month for 2 Bedroom Apartment

$_____ Per Month for 3 Bedroom Apartment

$_____ Per Month for 4 Bedroom Apartment

I am interested in renting a house and can afford to pay a rent of:

$_____ Per Month for 1 Bedroom House

$_____ Per Month for 2 Bedroom House

$_____ Per Month for 3 Bedroom House

$_____ Per Month for 4 Bedroom House

I am interested in purchasing a house at the following price:

$6,000 _____ $7,000 _____ $8,000 _____ $9,000 _____

$10,000 _____.

I am financially able to purchase a house now _____, or in
(Check)

_____ Months, or _____ Years.
(Number) (Number)

*NOTE: THIS QUESTIONNAIRE IS NOT AN APPLICATION FOR HOUSING.

Agent Outlines Training for Vets in Real Estate

The Reish. Afro-American
Aug. 7-1946

WASHINGTON

An on-the job training program for veterans in real estate has been drawn up recently by James E. Scott, widely known real estate operator, and accepted by the Board of Education of the District of Columbia and the Veterans' Administration.

The course, as outlined by Mr. Scott, who already employs a veteran in his office here, provides for training in real estate law, salesmanship, property management, and office administration.

While studying under this program, the veteran is receiving $90 a month subsistence allowance from the Veterans Administration in addition to the money he makes in the real estate business.

To teach the veteran salesmanship, Mr. Scott lists: methods of appraising, techniques of selling, and business ethics; while property management covers bookkeeping, property supervision and costs of repairing and redecorating buildings.

Under real estate law, the veteran is taught contracts, negotiable instruments, public utilities, domestic relations and partnerships, and in the final phase of the course, office administration covers personnel problems and office management.

Any real estate operators who are interested in giving a vet on-the-job training may copy this program ,submit it to their State Board of Education and, if it is approved, take it to the nearest contact office of the Veteran Administration.

Richmond News Leader
29 July 48

RF&P Interstate Segregation Stops

Enforced segregation of white and Negro passengers in interstate commerce is a thing of the past on trains operated by the Richmond Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad Company, according to an announcement made by Norman Call, president of the railroad.

However, Mr. Call said, the RF&P will continue to abide by Virginia law in providing separate coaches for intrastate passengers of the two races. He pledged the railroad to furnish "separate compartments with equal accommodations for white and Negro passengers who may desire to sit with their own race."

The RF&P president indicated that the decision not to enforce race separation of interstate passengers grew out of a recent Supreme Court ruling abolishing race segregation on interstate motor carriers. As far as is known, the local railroad is the first railroad operating in the South which has announced the adoption of such a policy.

Report to Dr. George S. Mitchell, Southern Regional Council

Monday, July 29, I contacted about fifteen Negro veterans around Appomattox Courthouse and Farmville, Virginia. In Farmville I visited the County Agent (white) and the Veterans' Administration Office. The County Agent was courteous but somewhat unresponsive. I gathered that he was of the school that hollers "wasteful spending" every time Congress passes a bill that calls for money. One of the first questions he asked was whether or not the Southern Regional Council is backed by Northern interests. I have been asked the same question at least a dozen times before. The people who ask it invariably follow it up with the remark, "We of the South can take care of the Negroes without outside interference." I am sorely tempted to reply by saying, "Yes, we have done an excellent job of exploiting the Negro, but that is all we can take credit for!"

I waited on the V. A. officer at Farmville for about two hours. He never did show up, so I left without seeing him. His secretary told me that about one-third of the veterans who came into the office were Negroes.

I journeyed on to Amelia Courthouse and tried to see the vocational agriculture teacher and the superintendent of schools (colored) with no luck. The superintendent of schools was in summer school andthe vocational ag. teacher was in the field. I did talk to a few veterans so my time wasn't altogether wasted.

Tuesday, I visited the Evergreen Baptist Church, Wilmington, Fluvanna County, Virginia. The Rev. J. W. Kerr is the pastor. He strikes me as being a very up-to-the-minute fellow and interested in helping the veteran as much as possible. About 150 people were present.

Mr. White and I arrived early but we were not able to speak until late that afternoon; however, once the people found out who and what I represented, they proceeded to keep me busy answering questions. I believe I really did a great amount of good at that meeting. The Rev. Mr. W. J. Jones was the moderator and I found that he was very much interested in the Council and the veterans' program.

Wednesday morning we visited the Pamunkey Baptist Association at the Rock Spring Baptist Church, King William County, Enfield, Va. About 125 people were present. Mr. Perry Harvey, Secretary of the Association, and Miss Hamilton, Supervisor of Negro Schools in King William County were there.

Wednesday afternoon we visited the Northern Neck Baptist Association which convened with the Lively Hope Baptist Church in Northumberland County. The Rev. John Jay Nickers was moderator. He lives at Rehobeth Church, Va. I did not have an opportunity to talk with him but Mr. White assures me that he is interested in our work.

I especially enjoyed talking to the Rev. H. M. Ruffin,

Beverleyville, Virginia. He is a very intelligent and well-educated fellow with a lot of good hard common sense.

Perhaps the best contact we can make among the Negroes in Virginia is Mr. T. C. Walker, a Negro lawyer, Glouchester Courthouse, Glouchester County, Virginia. Mr. Walker is 84 years old, but age rests upon him lightly. He has a mind that is keen as a whip. Also, he is a great speaker and champion of the Negroes throughout the state.

I also talked to the adjutant of the county American Legion Post (colored) and the American Legion Auxiliary. They were eager to try and aid the veteransin any way possible.

Thursday I went to Mattaponi Association at Buckner, Louisa County, Virginia. There I met the Rev. R. F. Bowles, Noel, Virginia, who is a very active young man and will disseminate any information we can give him.

I also met Dr. J. M. Ellison, president of Virginia Union University. He helped me out quite a bit in the meeting and also told me that I was using the best means of contact. The Rev. E. D. R. Guss, Guinea, Va., is the moderator. There were about 200 people present.

The Rev. A. P. Young, Bowling Green, Va., also is well recommended for passing on information.

That afternoon we went to the Star of the East Association about 15 miles out of Richmond. Mr. M. J. Robinson, trade school instructor at Virginia Randolph High School, Henrico County, was most anxious to get additional information.

Friday, I spoke to the 150 people assembled for the Piedmont Association just outside of Charlottesville.

Saturday morning I had a long conversation with Mr. Hall and Mr. Davis. They were very interested in my reactions and observations concerning the Negro veteran in Eastern Virginia. I talked at great length with Mr. Hall about the need of having an informed Negro to work in the field as I have been doing. It would be ideal if this man could be hired by the V. A., but of course, that action would not be consistent with the V. A. policy or with the law. However, we thought about the State Department of Education's hiring such a person and having the V. A. endorse him--in other words, have the Roanoke office promise full co-operation. Mr. Hall believes that something could be worked out along that line. This person should be hired for a minimum time of six months.

I had planned to go to Raleigh, N. C. this week-end, but after talking to Mr. Hall and Mr. Davis, I felt that I should wait until I heard from you.

I had believed that I would encounter a great knowledge of the G. I. Bill in the rural areas around Richmond, but have found that I was mistaken. In fact, I believe that the rural area within a hundred mile circumference of Richmond is less informed than around

Norfolk and Portsmouth.

In the past two weeks, I have made a large number of good contacts. I have been asked many times to come to certain meetings for veterans, some to be arranged for my convenience, but have refused those invitations because I knew I had to do some work in North Carolina during the month of August.

Partially on the basis of these facts, I have concluded that I could probably render a greater service in my one remaining month if I were to follow up the contacts I have already made in Virginia, rather than going down to N. C., and having to start all over there. Perhaps I could help Mr. Hall onthis idea of a Negro state field worker for veterans.

Please believe me, I have no personal axe to grind in this matter. I should like to go to North Carolina, but in justice to the Southern Regional Council, the contacts I have made (some of whom give me to understand that they feel that they are left "hanging"), and to my desire to do a good job, I believe that what I have suggested is the wisest course.

Sincerely,

ETJ

Emory T. Judy

P.S. Please send me some more tracts on on-the-job and on-the-farm training.

Good contacts for SRC: (some may be members)

Rev. Mr. Walter White (col.)
1201 Idlewood Avenue
Richmond, Va.

Rev. Mr. Russell Jones (col.)
Grafton Baptist Church
Harmony Village, Va.

Rev. Mr. B. H. Gayle (col.)
Saluda, Va.

Professor D. C. Rawley (col.)
Urbana, Va.

Mr. R. J. Jones (col.)
Gretna, Va.

Mr. J. S. Carrington (col.)
South Boston, Va.

Dr. L. V. Ragland (col.)
South Boston, Va.

Mrs. Willie A. Sykes (col.)
Box 309
Halifax, Va.

Dr. Allen (white)
Executive Secretary Interracial Committee
Virginia Council of Churches
Richmond, Va.

Mr. Allen B. Stanger (white)
Director of Religious Ed., Chesapeake Area Disciples of Christ
514 Atlantic Life Building
Richmond, Virginia

Perry Harvey (col.)
King William C.H., Va.

Mr. R. W. Clark (col.)
Rumford, Va.

Miss Hamilton, Supervisor Negro Schools (col.)
King William C.H., Va.

Rev. S. L. Massie (col.)
Roxbury, Va.

Mr. M. J. Robinson (col.)
Henrico Co., Va.

Mr. Roger Fields (col.)
R.F.D., Richmond, Va.

Report to Dr. George Mitchell, Southern Regional Council

Sunday afternoon (August 4th) I drove back to Richmond and spent Sunday night there, as I wished to be there when your telegram arrived. Monday morning I checked with the Richmond Urban League but nothing had been heard from you. Monday afternoon I visited Virginia Union Seminary and talked to Mr. Webster A. Rogers, secretary of the Richmond Veterans' Committee. His home address is 400 W. Clay St., Richmond 20, Virginia; phone 2-1890. Mr. Rogers is also an active member of the American Veterans' Committee. We talked for a couple of hours about veterans' affairs in Richmond. The Richmond Veterans' Committee is an organization that Mr. Hall and others set up last spring for the purpose of helping the Negro veteran. Some good work has been accomplished by this group. Attempts were made to place veterans in the on-the-job training program and meetings were called in the various wards of Richmond to explain the G. I. Bill to all Negro veterans. During the summer months, this organization has become practically defunct, and it is questionable whether or not it will be continued this fall. Quite a few of its members have joined the American Veterans Committee in the Richmond branch.

Mr. Rogers is twenty-three years old, and an ex-combat veteran (92nd Infantry Division). He intends to become a lawyer, so as to help his race in the courts of the land. He is a very eager and aspiring individualist. He impressed me as being persistent to a point wherein he could get into one's hair. He is a crusader.

The A. V. C. in Richmond is active in trying to relieve racial tension and discrimination. Discriminatory acts against veterans are being investigated.

Tuesday I visited the Richmond Urban League again and learned that Mr. Wiley Hall had found out in a very indirect manner that you were not in Atlanta; this explained to me why I had not heard from you. I visited Mr. J. R. Picott, secretary of the Va. Association for Education to find out a few more particulars about the article he wanted. He requested 900 words but I told him I could do a better job if I had more space. He very reluctantly agreed to 1,800 words. I think that actually the article contained around 1,100 words. It has been mailed to you.

I am sorry that I did not accomplish more in these two days, but I wished to get your response to the letters as soon as possible, hence hesitated to stray too far from the Urban League. Wednesday, the Rev. Mr. Walter White and I attended the Harmony Association convening just southwest of Keyesville, Virginia. There were over one hundred people present. I was given about thirty minutes to talk and answer questions. Wednesday afternoon we journeyed to the Rockfish Association convening on Route 26, Appomattox, Va. Within the church there were about sixty-five people when I talked, but outside there were several hundred. I was given a grand opportunity to discuss the Bill, both in and out of church.

We drove back to Richmond from Appomattox and Thursday morning I picked up your telegram. I conferred with Mr. White about those people we had contacted who could best serve my purpose by calling meetings of the veterans in their communities. I am sending letters to these people and already have received some confirmations.

Thursday afternoon I drove to Charles City County and there talked to Mr. L. D.Brown, Negro vocational agriculture teacher of the county. He was relatively uninformed on how to set up an on-the-farm training program in his county; however, he had sixteen boys lined up for this training if the training was feasible in this county. I did not venture any information on this problem, because he had an appointment on August 12th with Mr. Thomas of Virginia State University. However we discussed other phases of the Bill. He is to get a group of veterans together for the evening of August 13th. Also, we contacted a Negro veteran who had the qualifications for a job as Voc.-Ag. teacher. He was non-commital about accepting a teaching job with the state. I stopped in Mr. Brown's father's general store and in the course of one hour talked to ten veterans who were interested in some benefit of the Bill.

Friday I drove to the Valley Baptist Association which met five miles south of Roanoke. There were approximately sixty-five people present. These people were particularly interested in the interracial work of the S.R.C. and questioned me more about that than the Bill. I have found this to be true in almost every community I have visited.

There is a list of people whom I've contacted attached to this report.

Emory T. Judy
August 11, 1946

Remedial Action Taken in Va. In Abuses of On-the-Job Training by Vets, Employers

Some Violations Reported, But Said to Be Small Minority of Those Taking Part in Plan

By BOB HILLS

Veterans' Administration and State Department of Education officials agreed today that abuses of on-the-job training under the GI Bill of Rights by employers and veterans as well exist in Virginia, but added that remedial action has been taken.

General Omar N. Bradley, Veterans' Administrator, yesterday warned the nation "of a scandal involving millions of dollars in Federal funds in the veterans' on-the-job training program." He said that in some States frequent abuses, caused by the "dishonest employer and unthinking veteran," were jeopardizing the value of the program, and urged State and Federal administrators to take action against unscrupulous practices now existing.

James B. Cress, deputy administrator of the Veterans' Administration Richmond branch office, said that some violations have been evident, and that such cases brought to the attention of the VA have resulted in immediate suspension of training and GI subsistence benefits. In commenting on General Bradley's charges, Mr. Cress today said:

"We have made every effort in the Richmond branch of VA to see that veterans training on the job received training that will make them better citizens and will improve their abilities.

"There have been cases in which unscrupulous employers have used the program as means of obtaining cheap labor, and there have been cases where veterans have tried to use it as a means of adding to their income, without regard to gaining knowledge that might help them in a trade. Fortunately, such employers and veterans represent a very small minority.

VIRGINIA STAFF CHECKS UP

"While the responsibility rests with the States to approve training facilities for veterans training under Public Law 346, VA has a large staff of training officers who check periodically on the trainees. When a training officer discovers training abuses he takes immediate steps to correct them. If they are flagrant, subsistence is discontinued and every effort is made to help the trainee find some other place where he may obtain genuine training."

A Veterans' Administration official cited the example of a Norfolk plumber who was training veterans as apprentices. The veteran complained to the VA that his boss was using him as cheap labor and on various occasions he had been sent out to mow the lawn while he was receiving the maximum subsistence available to veterans taking training as plumbers. The VA official added that the Norfolk plumber is no longer eligible to train veterans.

GOOD-FAITH VIOLATIONS

Dowell J. Howard, assistant superintendent of public instruction, agreed with General Bradley that good-faith violations of the on-the-job training program exist in Virginia today. He added, however, that such cases are in the minority. The on-the-job training program enacted under the GI Bill of Rights is set up in such a manner that it is very easy for unscrupulous persons, employers and veterans alike, to take advantage of the program aimed to aid the veteran.

The period of training allowed, Mr. Howard added, was decided by various State boards. Because each State has different rules regarding the apprentice training necessary to educate a skilled workman, the training within the States will naturally vary.

VARIED CLASSIFICATIONS

The State Department of Education has approved 7,259 different classifications of training in Virginia. The Veterans' Administration has placed 1,363 disabled veterans under Public Law 16 in on-the-job training in the State, and has placed a total of 6,956 men in on-the-job training under the GI Bill.

Roger E. Martz, training chief for VA in Virginia, said that while abuses of the on-the-job training program do exist it is the opinion of VA officials that such violations are held at a minimum in the State. Although approval of on-the-job training is handled by the State Board of Education, the VA still has final say in the awarding of subsistence allowances. The VA will not make subsistence awards if the training program is considered to be inadequate, Mr. Martz said.

High salaries for veterans in training are prevented in Virginia by the State Board of Education's ruling on maximum wages, Mr. Martz said. Its policy is that if the employer normally pays a wage of of $300 a month or more, it shall be considered that the employee is probably not in need of training and a thorough investigation is made.

Weatherman Sees Warm, Wet Week For Richmond

A warm and wet weather program is in store for Richmond during the remainder of this week, according to the local Weather Bureau's forecast today.

Thundershowers are expected tonight, tomorrow and again late Friday or Saturday, with precipitation for the period totaling one-fourth to three-fourts of an inch.

Tomorrow's temperature will be "moderate," the bureau said, and the mercury will rise on Thursday and Friday, followed by a little cooler weather over the week end. The temperature for the five-day period will average from two to four degrees above normal, which is 78.

Tonight's temperature will stay above 70, and the high during the afternoon was expected to be around 90, the bureau said. Yesterday's highest temperature also was 90, while the low reading during last night was 72, the bureau reported.

Four New Firemen

Four new members of the Fire Department appeared before the City Clerk today and took the oath of office. They are Otis S. McKay, William C. Burke, Jr.; Vernon E. Roach and Ernest W. Fenner.

Bill of Rights To Be Discussed

A thorough summary of the GI Bill of Rights will be given by James B. Cress, deputy administrator of the Richmond branch of the Veterans' Administration and a committee of experts before an open meeting of the American Veterans' Committee at 8 P. M. Tuesday in the YWCA auditorium. Veterans in the Richmond area urged to attend.

The VAM experts, all assigned to the Richmond branch, include J. B. Moore, III, deputy administrator; C. P. Pate, training and education director; Dr. D. B. MacCallum, medical director; Dr. H. H. Earp, outpatient division chief; R. W. Deeson, insurance director, and Simeon Hyde, supervising loan guarantee director.

All benefits of the Veterans' Readjustment Act—the GI bill—will be reviewed. Education benefits, loan guarantees, National Service Life Insurance, hospitalization and all other veterans' needs will be discussed on the basis of availability, administration, and how the veteran may receive such benefits. A question and answer period will follow Administrator Cress' talk. The YWCA auditorium is located at 6 North Fifth St.

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DREDGING UPPER CHANNEL—The government-owned dredge Talcott is shown dredging the upper channel of the James near the intermediate terminal to the required depth of 18 feet. This operation is part of the Federal government's regular maintenance work on the river channel. [Staff Photo]

Richmond News Leader Aug 6/46

800 State Veterans Enrolled In Farm Training Program

Approximately 800 Virginia war veterans now are enrolled in the "on the farm" training program sponsored by the State Department of Education in co-operation with the Veterans' Administration, D. J. Howard, assistant superintendent of public instruction, said today.

The number of trainees is growing steadily, Mr. Howard said, as more farm boys back from the war realize the advantages available to them under the intensive training course proposed by the Department of Education.

Under this program, a veteran who undertakes farming work in the tobacco growing region, for example, may become eligible for veterans' benefits under the GI Bill of Rights by taking 200 hours of classroom work over a 12-month period in subjects closely related to sound tobacco growing and marketing. This training is offered in Virginia high schools by qualified instructors in agriculture, and may cover the proper selection of land for tobacco, the characteristics of various types of tobacco, the control of blue mold, and the storing and marketing of tobacco.

In addition to this classroom work, which averages about four hours per week, the veteran is obligated to work actively on a farm for a minimum of 39 hours per week. The "on the farm" phase of the program must be tied in carefully with the classroom work, for the State Department of Education keeps a strict eye on the trainees to see that they are not being utilized as ordinary farm laborers while they are supposed to be in training for a specific phase of farming.

A veteran interested in qualifying for this program should first consult the instructor in agriculture at his local high school, Mr. Howard said. Application then is filed with the Veterans' Administration and the State Department of Education picks up the training program from this point. Over the course of a few years, Mr. Howard said, the project will see hundreds of progressively trained farmers engaged in agricultural occupations, with a solid background of education in sound agricultural practices.

195 of 264 Would Study Off-Campus

Of the 264 veterans and nonveterans registering here last week as wishing to enter college this Fall 195 are willing to attend off-campus centers, it was learned today.

A total of 168 of the 228 veterans registering said they would be willing to attend classes in college work offered in their own localities or at a high school accessible to them in the afternoons or evenings. Twenty-seven of the 36 nonveterans registering also said they would be willing to attend such classes.

Ten women veterans registered. They included two white women and eight Negroes. Eight other Negro women were also included in the applicants.

U. OF R. HEADS

Seventy-seven of the 264 applicants listed the University of Richmond as their first choice of colleges, 40 selected VPI, 21 chose the College of William and Mary, 10 chose the Richmond Professional Institute and 10 the University of Virginia.

Five wished to go to the Medical College of Virginia, nine to Ran-

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Report to Dr. George S. Mitchell, Southern Regional Council, Inc.

Monday, August 12, 1946, I stopped in Bridgewater, Dayton, and Elkton, of Rockingham County. Few Negroes live in this area. I believe the G. I. program is going along well here. Next I stopped in Greene County and talked to a few veterans. They all had questions, but on the whole I would say that they knew where to go for information. Next, I stopped in Orange Court House. I tried to see the superintendent of schools but he was in Roanoke attending a meeting. I also tried to see the Negro supervisor, but she was in Richmond. I visited the U. S. E. S. office and found Mr. Waugh on duty. He had held down the job all of one day! All that he could tell me was what he had learned in a four week school. I did learn that very few establishments had been approved for vocational training. I intend to return to Orange and Culpepper Counties for I believe work is needed there. I stopped in several service stations and stores from there into Richmond. I talked to about twenty people, but these did not include many veterans.

Tuesday, August 13th, I received your approval of the article and took it around to Mr. Picott. A copy of the magazine will be sent to you. The article seemed to be what he wanted.

I drove to Walkerton to see Mr. Carter, the Voc-Ag. teacher, but could not locate him. I talked to Mr. Beverly, the local blacksmith and wheelwright, who told me that Mr. Carter was getting a group together for on-the-farm training.

I talked to several veterans in West Point and then turned toward Ruthville in Charles City County.

Mr. L. D. Brown, Negro Voc-Ag. teacher, had called the meeting for the veterans. Twenty attended. We discussed the Bill for two and one-half hours. Two men were there who were interested in applying for jobs as Voc-Ag. teachers.

I listened to one story after another of racial discrimination. It had happened in civil service jobs and jobs with private employers. Negroes were discharged to be replaced by white veterans. It is hard to find an answer to stories like these. About 50% of the cases were those in which the Negro had recourse, but he was ignorant of this. It's no wonder that they will not accept the G. I. Bill at its face value.

Wednesday I drove to the Cornerstone Association meeting about five miles south of Brookneal, Virginia. There were over 200 people present. I was given ample time to talk to them and to answer questions. That afternoon I drove to the Cherrystone Association meeting about 12 miles from Gretna, Virginia. There were about 100 people present, but I did not have too much success with my talk. One elderly Negro verbally attacked me for using the word "colored." Several people apologized for him later on, but there was a good deal of embarrassment. I suppose those things are to be expected from some individuals.

Thursday morning, I journeyed to Virginia State College for Negroes and talked to Mr. J. R. Thomas of the State Dept. of Education. He is the Negro Ag. supervisor for Virginia. We talked at great length about on-the-farm training. In the entire state there are but three on-the-farm programs set up for Negroes. Two of those programs are in Mecklenburg Co. Many veterans are interested in other counties and are awaiting a Voc-Ag. teacher.

I do not believe there has been any concerted effort to get new teachers. It is somewhat of a hit-or-miss proposition. I have been emphasizing the need for teachers in my speeches and have talked to people who might be qualified. Three of those people have contacted Mr. Thomas so perhaps my efforts have not been altogether wasted. A man does not have to have a degree in agriculture to be qualified, but he does need teaching experience and has to be or have been a farmer.

Thursday afternoon Mr. White and I drove to the Tidewater Association convening about six miles out of Williamsburg at Grove, Va. The Rev. I. H. Ruffin was moderator. He is an able man and, I am told, a great organizer.

Friday, I visited the Blue Ridge Association at Amissville, Va., in Rappahannock County. There I met Mr. N. Howard Stanton (Negro), who is an advisor to General Bradley's staff. He is one of the most interesting people I have ever met--or rather, I believe he would be, because I did not talk to him very long. He is a Virginia man, Dr. of Divinity, was graduated from Howard University, and has degrees from Harvard, Columbia, and Temple. He spent twelve years in the service as a chaplain, and has been in most of the odd corners of the world. He speaks six languages, including Spanish and Hindustani. His enunciation is perfect, with no trace of the Negro dialect.

The preceding evening after the church services, a Negro man who had become tired of his wife's company, tried to eliminate her with a revolver, but fortunately, she ran away unscathed.

Saturday morning I stayed in Richmond, trying to locate a V. A. contact officer whom I want to accompany me to a veterans' meeting next Thursday in Charles City County. I have contacted two persons in Charles City County who can be qualified as Voc-Ag. teachers. I will find out next week if they will take the jobs.

Saturday evening I had to put my car in a garage again. We found the trouble, but could not find the parts. I need new motor mounts. What a life--whatta car!

Sunday, I visited the Concord Baptist Church, six miles out of Chase City, Virginia. The occasion was a yearly home-coming for the Negroes of the county. There must have been 400 people present, with about 60 veterans. I was given twenty minutes to talk and during the noon recess was kept busy answering questions and talking with veterans.

Sunday evening at 8:30 I talked to a group of veterans representing Charlotte County. The meeting was held at Drake's Branch, Virginia, about 30 miles north of Chase City. I talked to the Voc-Ag. teacher, Mr. Mosely, of Charlotte Court House, Va., about the necessity of obtaining new teachers. He thought he knew of one man in the county who might be able to qualify. The American Legion Post sponsored this meeting with the idea in mind of setting up a trade school class in the county high school.

August 20, 1946
Emory T. Judy

Report to Dr. George S. Mitchell, Southern Regional Council, Inc.

Monday, August 21st, I drove to Raleigh, N. C., where I contacted Mr. Johnson. We talked until 5:00 P.M., discussing the various methods which I had used in Virginia, and the possibilities for his adapting them to North Carolina. He seemed very much interested in everything that I could tell him. He was very frank about his inexperience and indicated his awareness of the delicate handling required in the task he has taken upon himself. He is still somewhat in the dark as to just where to begin his work or how to map out a program, and up until now has been acting on the suggestion of his board of directors by spending his time in making contacts and acquainting himself with the overall picture.

Mr. Johnson asked me to return to his office Tuesday morning so that in the interim he might think over our afternoon's discussion and see whether there were further questions he'd like to ask. One which came up was the fact that he had spent his "war years" in C.P.S., and whether that would have any bearing on his effectiveness in working with the veterans. We concluded that if it did, it would probably be to a slight degree only, since most of the veterans in that section wouldn't realize the significance of C.P.S. in the first place, and of those who would, many would be more tolerant than civilians might be.

Tuesday afternoon, I drove back to Richmond, and Wednesday morning I talked to Mr. Davis about your idea of having an organized veterans' disseminating agency. He suggested several people for me to see about the matter. Mr. Davis is handicapped in helping me on such a project because his work is associated only with the Richmond area.

I went to see Mr. H. E. Oliver, Senior Contact Officer of the Sub-Reg. Office, Laurel and Grace Streets, Richmond, Va. I wished to have a contact officer accompany me to Charles City County to a meeting of veterans on Thursday evening. I knew that it was a short notice, but previous attempts to get in touch with them had failed. He asked me to come back the following morning.

I had to place my car in a garage to get new motor mounts installed that evening. The fan had threatened to beat itself to pieces if something weren't done. We got the parts this time!

Thursday morning I talked to Mr. Oliver again and he referred me to Dr. Wilfong, head of that office. To make a long story short, I didn't get my man because the V. A. felt that there had not been enough publicity for the event. I am beginning to find out what it means to be a politician. These officials donned a sympathetic countenance, assured me that they'd like to help but had no man available; however, if I wished to arrange a meeting for a couple of weeks later, they would provide a man. That's very fine--perhaps they really would help me out if I planned a meeting for a later date. But I'm getting a bit tired of having people smile benevolently from one side of the face, while the other side seems to be saying, "Just be agreeable to this nuisance and we'll be rid of him shortly." I get a feeling of passive resistance. No doubt you, Dr. Mitchell, know exactly what I mean.

Thursday afternoon I telephoned to West Point, Virginia, and tried to get the Veterans Service Division official, Mr. Croxton Boughan, to speak before my group. He had another group of Negro veterans lined up in Gloucester County that he was to speak to on that evening. He told me that a Negro minister had contacted him and was arranging for him to talk to a group of Negro veterans in Charles City and New Kent Counties at some future date.

I was glad that neither a V. A. official or Mr. Baughan had been able to appear at that meeting because there were only about a dozen veterans present. My time was not wasted because we discussed the G. I. Bill and racial situation for about two hours. I brought up the matter of their having a veterans' organization and secured the promise of three good men to see what they could do about organizing such a group.

Friday, I talked to Mr. Allen, of the Va. Council of Churches. He wanted to know quite a great deal about my work, how successful it was proving, etc. He wants me to see Mr. Rice, of the newly organized vocational guidance center in Richmond. I understand this is a State Dept. of Education undertaking.

I also went to see Mr. L. Jones of the Richmond Veterans Information Center and talked with him for a while. The enclosed memorandum was given me by him. He asked to be remembered to you. I liked him very much.

Next I went to see Mr. Peters of the Negro Y.M.C.A. of Richmond. He was a 1st Sgt. in World War II, and is a college graduate. I broached the matter of a veterans' disseminating agency. Our opinions concur in the possibility for its success. The average American Legion Post (Negro) in Virginia is very poorly organized and inefficiently operated. The same is true of the V.F.W. In a great many counties and rural communities there is no existing organization and very few are being organized. Negro ministers are very little help, and sixty per cent of them lack the know-how of starting and keeping such a group alive. Very few ministers will do anything that might jeopardize their hallowed position in a community. I have seen this evidenced too many times in these church associations I have attended. When you get most of them from behind their pulpits they are lost. I am trying to view the situation objectively, and it seems to me that although these factors increase the need, they certainly do not furnish even a skeleton on which to build.

What is needed in Virginia is someone who is a good organizer, a Negro, preferably hired by the Veterans Administration; if not by them, then by the State Board of Education. If neither of these two agencies would accept the responsibility, then by some other agency. This man's purpose should be twofold: to disseminate information to groups of veterans as I have been doing, and to try to organize veterans in the rural areas. Of course, he should be endorsed by the V. A. and assured of the best possible cooperation. He should be hired on a yearly basis if possible.

I do not believe that a loosely knit organization such as you spoke of would be effective at this time in this state. In the urban areas, the veterans know where to go for help. The Richmond office of the V. A. uses every opportunity to distribute knowledge of the Bill to the veterans. This information does not reach those in the rural areas because they evidently do not read the papers or listen to the radio. The educational level is lower in the rural areas than the urban areas.

I tried to see Mr. B. J. Lutz, Supervisor of Distributive Education, located in the Virginia Mechanic Institute, 10th and E. Marshall Streets, Richmond, to get a breakdown of the list of on-the-job trainees, but he was away for the week-end. I understand there are several large empty rooms in this trade school that could be used to train Negroes in trades. But I also understand that it is heresey to mention that subject within the building.

Mr. Allen had suggested that I contact Mr. Crawford, Farmville, Va., the new American Legion Commander for Virginia, and see what his viewpoints are on the racial question.

Saturday, I drove to Farmville but was unable to see Mr. Crawford. I then drove to Charlotte Court House and attempted to see Mr. Mosely, the Voc-Ag. teacher, but was again unsuccessful. He had requested that I contact him. I did get to talk to Mr. J. Murray Jeffries, Negro president of the Grand United Order of Moses, a fraternal insurance company.

Mr. Jeffries started business forty-two years ago with a total capital of .50¢. Today the company has unencumbered assets of $90,000. I inquired how he got the idea. He replied that he had a recurring dream or vision that told him to start the company and how to start it. He was very much interested in the work of the S.R.C. I was able to talk to about ten veterans in and around his office. There is to be a big meeting next week in Charlotte C. H. that I will try to attend.

I shall try to talk to more people about the idea you suggested in relation to a veterans disseminating center with allied distributive points.

August 26, 1946

Emory T. Judy

Field Agent

September 3, 1946

Mr. Emory T. Judy
228 Locust Street
Covington, Virginia

Dear Mr. Judy:

I greatly enjoyed your two latest reports.

I have written Mr. Johnson in Raleigh, asking him to start doing our things and outlining a basis of pay. Hope he accepts. Thank you for going down to talk with him.

I do hope that before the end of your job with us you were able to get some organization of Negro veterans groups started. Even if you didn't have a chance, will you let us know the people you think would be the right ones to work through if I keep on pushing?

The check sent you on Friday, I take it, was your final pay check, for which I am sorry. If you do work a few more days, let me know and I will cover it and the travel.

You have done a remarkable piece of work. I doubt if anyone I have had has traveled more vigorously.

If in the future circumstances bring you to or through Atlanta, let me know.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:s

Field Agent

September 5, 1946

Mr. Emory T. Judy
228 Locust Street
Covington, Virginia

Dear Mr. Judy:

You will be interested in this correspondence.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Field Agent

September 10, 1946

Mr. Emory T. Judy
830 Xenia Avenue
Yellow Springs, Ohio

Dear Mr. Judy:

I greatly appreciate your final report, dated September 2rd.

I am fully satisfied with the job you did in Virginia. What you did was far ahead of my expectations for anyone coming new to this job with so short a time to put on it.

Do please write me the names of the four or five persons you think I would do best to be in touch with in a continuing effort to get some sort of veterans' council going in Virginia.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Field Agent

October 10, 1946

Mr. Emory T. Judy
850 Xenia Avenue
Yellow Springs, Ohio

Dear Mr. Judy:

When do you get another work period?

Would you be interested in using six weeks or a couple of months to write for publication in our magazine, The New South, an appraisal of services to Negro veterans in Virginia?

You have probably seen the Alabama and Arkansas ones, of which copies are enclosed.

I have one about ready for Louisiana.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

October 19, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
83 Auburn Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

I am very sorry that I could not answer your letter sooner. The first division of Antioch's school year is a very hectic time--only seven study weeks, you know.

My next work period begins the 28th of this month. Prior to receiving your letter, the College had made arrangements for me to work for an accounting firm. I shall work through Christmas, go back to school until April, and back to work for the accounting firm until the end of school.

I discussed your letter with Mr. J. D. Dawson. He asked to be remembered to you, and also that I tell you he had not forgotten your work.

I am sorry that I cannot write the appraisal for you.

Thank you very much for your swell letter to Mr. Dawson.

Sincerely,

Emory T. Judy

Emory T. Judy

Fula Agnew

November 8, 1946

Mr. Emory T. Judy
830 Xenia Avenue
Yellow Springs, Ohio

Dear Mr. Judy:

It is fine that you are to make the talk.

It would injure the talk if you dubbed into it anyone else's ideas, but perhaps I can point up something that you were finding yourself.

The only thing I know that will dissolve racial prejudice is association between people of about the same level, across racial lines, in the interest of some purpose common to everyone , to those who are present. For that, prejudice melts. So it seems to me the part of statesmanship to cherish every movement that gives rise to such association.

In recent years the main such movement in the South has been trade unionism. The church shows signs of a little movement in this direction. The business life of Southern cities has always had some of it. And that's about all. Self-organization of veterans promises another good such source. Negro luncheon clubs on the order of the white civic clubs would be another chance. So would a Farmers Union.

In associations of this kind people from the two races make a native adjustment. Perhaps it is the stronger for the very fact that the association begins and developes for no one ideology but out of a mutual need.

Observe that the results are of two degrees of intensity. Where the membership itself is drawn from both races the gains in lessened prejudice are great but they are diffuse, and as to any two given individuals, one Negro and one white, not deep. But the stirring of any such movement requires on the leadership level mutual understanding of the highest order. The relationship of confidence so built

among the leaders will stand heavy strain. It will correct rumors. It will draw up trusting fellowship on the part of members from each group. It will set patterns of courtesy built upon respect that will spread.

When you have an interracial problem to solve, it is often well therefore to look around and find the several most pressing mutual interests of people from both races and to try to build an organization that will take on the problem or problems. From there, improvement flows automatically and without self-consciousness. That seems to me the healthiest way.

There are plenty of people who would go about it in other ways.

Good luck, and let me know how you make out.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

830 Xenia Ave
Yellow Springs, O.
5 Nov. 46

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

I have been asked to speak before a dinner meeting of the Board of Trustees of Antioch College on the subject of racial discrimination in the South and to relate a few of my experiences while working for the Southern Regional Council. The dinner will take place on the 16th of November.

I feel that my qualifications are definitely limited on this subject. If you have any ideas that you wish expressed at this meeting or knowledge of any late developments, I would appreciate your passing this information to me.

Several weeks ago I listened while Mr Walter White curdled the blood of the Antioch school body. He impressed me greatly.

I notice that Mr Hodding Carter of Greenville, Miss. mentions the S.R.C. in his article in the issue of the Saturday Evening Post of Nov.

Sincerely,

Emory Jeffery

Field Report (Merkerson)

583 Houston Street
Atlanta, Georgia
March 17, 1946

Dr. G. S. Mitchell
Southern Regional Council Inc.
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

I attended the meeting held by the Council Of Guidance and Personnel Associations, On Friday night March 15. The meeting was largely attended and very interesting.

Mr. J.C. Holbrook, Regional Director, Vocational Rehabilitation and Education Service, VeteransAdministration, Atlanta, Georgia gave interesting facts and figures on the tremendous amount of work that is being done by the Veterans Administration in this region.

The high points of Mr. Holbrooks speech were:

1. The aim of the Veterans asministration in this area is to render the best possible service to all Veterans.
2. The people of this country should spend as much money to get the veterans ready for civilian lifeas they did to train them for war.
3. There are eleven million disable veterans in the United States.
4. There are one and a quarter million veterans in this area and a large percentof these men are disable.
5. As of January 1946, there were two hundred and eighty-nine thousand veterans in Georgia.
6. As of January 1946, nine hundred and thirty-two thousand, one hundred and thirty four veterans in the U.S. had filed applications for all kinds of training; of that number, two hundred and thirty four thousand, one hundred and thirty four were disable veterans.

Mr. Holbrooks speech was short but interesting. the other speakers did not speak on anything pertaining to veterans.

Sincerely,

John W. Merkerson

jwm/fm

John Wesley Merkerson

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March 21st

I went to Lake City, Fla. My first visit was the office of Mr. J. W. Burns, Superintendent of Schools; he was out of town. I then went to the Colored High school and unfortunately, the principal and the Ag. teacher were out of town.

Finally, I met Mr. McKinley Jeffers, Negro County Agent and who is also the Commander of the local chapter of Veterans of the World Wars. He was deeply interested in the program and stated that he would do what he could to get it started in Lake City because it was just the thing for the Veterans in that area.

Thus far, the people that I have met were deeply interested in the program and have pledged their support. I hope that I will find similar feelings in Jacksonville.

Sincerely

J. W. M.

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March 20, 1946

Dear Dr. Mitchell;

On March 18th I visited the office of Mr. Paul Eddy, Supervisor of Veterans Education for the state of Florida. Mr. Eddy was out of town, but I talked at length with his assistant Mr. Ben Perloff, who was well informed about on the job and on the farm training.

Mr. Perloff stated that Fla. handled it's program on a county wide basis with the state as the approving agent. As of March 1st there were 3,537 approved training programs in Fla. with an additional 1,500 in the process of being approved. He was not in a position to give the total

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number of men in training, but did say, that very few Negroes had applied for training and few Negro business concerns had applied for approval as a training agency.

At the end of our discussion Mr. Perloff referred me to Mr. D. C. William, Supervisor of Negro Education for the state of Fla., Mr. Amos Godby, County Supervisor of schools. He also gave me some printed information about job and farm training in Fla. I am sending some of it to you for your use.

After talking with Mr. Perloff, I visited the office of Mr. Amos Godby, County Supervisor of Schools. He was very interested in on-the-job and farm training, especially on-the-farm training.

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He stated that there were a large number of Negro farmers (veterans) in this area. Unfortunately, there had not been a single Negro to apply for such training.

Mr. Godby was very anxious to get the program started for Negroes in the County (Leon) and asked me to help him. He referred me to Mr. Abner (Negro) principal of the high school and Miss Dorothy Holmes, home supervisor. He asked me to come back to see him before leaving Tallahassee and let him know just what I was able to do.

Tuesday March 19th I visited Rev. N. J. Graham, president of the local chapter of the N.A.A.C.P. I told him of my mission. He was deeply interested and carried me to a meeting of the Ministerial Alliance of Tallahassee.

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I was introduced at this meeting by Rev. Graham. I explained my mission to the group, and asked the support of the group in getting this on-the-job and farm training program over to the veterans in this area.

The ministers pledged their support to the extent of talking about the program in their church services. I told them complete information could be obtained from the Director of Veterans Educations, Tallahasse. I gave each member of the group a copy of your article that appeared in the Journal and Guide, On the Job Instruction Offered GIs.

After leaving the meeting with the ministers, I visited Mr. G. A. Brown,

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Ag. teacher at the Colored High school. I told Mr. Brown about the on the farm training program. He admitted that he knew nothing at all about the program. I told him that the Director of Veterans Education could give him all of the dope about the program. I also told him that his County Supervisor was very anxious to get the program started for Negro veterans in his County.

Wednesday March 20

I went to see Mr. William Morris Jr., President of the Negro Civic League. I told of my mission and asked the support of his group. I gave Mr. Morris some printed information about job and farm training.

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A Council to attain, through research and action, the ideals and practices of equal opportunity for all peoples in the South.

Mr. Morris pledged to support of his group and promised to help get the Veterans together for a mass meeting.

I met Mr. T. C. Pinkney, Commander of the Colored Veterans of the World Wars. I told him of my mission and he accepted the program with keen interest. I gave him all of the information that I had on the program and referred him to the office of the Director of Veterans Education for complete details. He promised to take the matter up at the next meeting of his group which is to be held March 27, 1944.

I visited Fla. A & M College, met President Gray and the Veteran Counsellor of the school. This program is confined to the handling of veterans on the campus. They did promised to do all they can to push our program.

Field agent

March 28, 1946

Mr. John W. Merkerson
63 Auburn Avenue, NE
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Mr. Markerson:

I greatly enjoyed your report of March 20th. You are doing a good job.

One or two minor points: It would be a help to me if at the end of each report you would add an extra page, listing the useful people you talked with or heard of. I don't want duds. Try to get full names, initials, and reasonably usable addresses. Also, I need some indication as to whether they are colored or white.

You spoke of a girl who is a ~~Jeans~~ Jeanes teacher. Forty-odd years ago, a nice old lady in Boston named Miss Anna T. ~~Jeans~~ Jeanes left a million dollars or so to help Negroes in the South. A Negro woman named Maggie Walker in Richmond was trying to improve Negro schools by traveling to them and teaching the teachers how to teach. The people in control of Miss Jeanes' money liked what was being done and hired flocks of Jeanes teachers to do the same trick everywhere.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Field agent (Mathenson)

March 31, 1946

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

On March 22nd I went to the office of Mr. W. Daniel Boyd, Superintendent of Schools, Jacksonville, Florida. I saw Mr. Boyd and we talked at length about on the job training in Jacksonville. Mr. Boyd carried me to the office of Mr. Sam I. Smith who is a veteran of world war two and is in charge of job training in Jacksonville.

Mr. Smith showed me the large number of applications that he had received from agencies wanting to offer job training. In most cases all applications are approved.

While we were talking, the owner of a Florist Shop came into the office to see about getting his business approved for the training of veterans. His first trainee is to be a negro who had asked him about such training.

Mr. Smith stated that many negro veterans had asked for job training but he had nothing much to offer them. Not many white concern would accept negroes and there was only one negro approved training agency.

Mr. Smith asked me to do what I could to get more negroes to ask for approval of their establishments. He stated that the local white newspapers were giving job training a lot of publicity.

I visited Mr. D. George, President of the Negro Chamber of Commerce. Mr. George was in accord with our program. He promised

to make an appeal at the Chamber's for more negro applications for approval as training agencies. I gave him all of the printed information that I had and referred him to Mr. Smith office for complete details.

On March 23rd. Ivisited Mr. Ed. Koleman,(negro) local representative of the CIO; he was in accord with the program and invited to be one of the guest speakers at a forth coming civic meeting.

After talking to Mr. Koleman I went to see Mr. Portia Taylor, Editor and Owner of a local Weekly Newspaper, The Florida Tattler Mr. Taylor asked me to write an article for his paper concerning job training. I agreed to write article.

On March 25th I went to see the Duval County Voc. Training school. I met the instructors and they showed me around the school The shop is well equiped. There are 60 veterans enrolled in the school. They are being trained in Auto machanic and woodwork. Class room instructions are entergrated into the training.

I met Mr. Redding, president of the local chapter of the NAACP He was in accord with our program. I told him about the need forr more training agencies for Negro veterans. He stated that he would employ the services of the Jr. branch of the NAACP to make a store to store canvass of Jacksonville in order to get more Negro training agencies for Negro veterans. Mr Redding asked me to write an article to be published in the local newspaper.(white)

I gave Mr. Redding some printed information about job training and referred him to the office of Mr. Smith for complete details. He promised to keep me informed as to the progress of job training in Jacksonville.

On March 26th I went to the office of Mr. James Irwin, Assistant Service Officer, Veteran Commission, State of Fla. Mr. Irwin was out of office but I talked with his office partner Mr. L.I. Alexander. Mr. Alexander atated that a few veterans had been to the office to see about job training. He regretted that there was nothing much to offer them.

I had the opportunity to talk to Mr. Irwin over the phone. We made an appointment but he did not keep the engagement.

I ended the day by going back to all of the folks that I had met, biding them good by and asking them to do all that they could for the promotion of the jog training program. I ask them to keep in touch with me.

On Tuesday night I went to the Civic meeting that Mr. Koleman had invited me to. The meeting was well attended. I made my plea for more job training opportunities for veterans and for more veterans to take advantage of this training.

John W. McMurtrie

Field Agent (Anderson)

April 6, 1946

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

The meetings of the Florida State Teachers Association were largely attended believed by all to have been very educational and successful.

The general theme for discussion was "The Next Step In Democracy In Functional Education." Dr. Twigg participated in a Panel Discussion on this subject. It was very interesting.

I was given the opportunity to speak to the Principals and Supervisors. I told them of our work. I asked them to do all that was possible to get the veterans in their communities to take advantage of their opportunities. I pointed out that for those veterans —

who can't or won't go in for high school or college training that job training or farm training is a wonderful opportunity.

It was planned for me to speak to the Home and Farm Demonstration Agents but for some reason this group did not meet. I regretted this very much.

Between the sessions I wandered out into the city of Orlando. I met Mrs. Osborne Jenkins, Negro Welfare Worker; she pointed out the need for a Counseling center for Negroes with a trained Negro Counselor. The counselor at the V.A. did not give Negro Veterans much consideration.

I met Mr. Ben. Hubert, Editor and Owner of the Orlando Times (Negro Weekly) Mr. Hubert

was in accord with our program. He granted me permission to write an article for his paper. He asked for a set of our pictures of veterans taking job training. (mats)

I met Mr. Arthur Kennedy president of the Negro Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Kennedy stated that the Chamber was getting ready to conduct a survey of Negro Businesses in Orlando as to the number and number of employees. We agreed that this would be a good time to sell the idea of farm and job training. I gave him all of the information at my disposal and referred him to the office of the superintendent of schools for further information.

I went to the office of the Veterans Service Officer, Mrs. Annie Mc Lean. (white) She knew of only two Negro job training agencies (Funeral Home & Laundry)

Mr. J. B. Glover, Supervisor of Veterans Education was out of town but I talked by telephone to the U.S.E.S. officer Mr. Mc Millian. He was interested in getting more training agencies for colored. He stated that he was responsible for the only two agencies that are available. Not a single white concern has accepted Negro veterans as trainees.

Mr. Glover referred me to the commander of the local colored organization. Mr. Preston is this commander; he is a veteran of World War I and is acting as a counselor for colored veterans. (volunteer) He told me that he had talked to several Negroes who own businesses, about having their places approved but had not been successful in getting any to apply. The number of Negro establishments is small.

I met a very interesting person who is heading a worth while program, a Rev. R. H. Johnson Minister, Editor, and Founder of the Good Neighbors Inc. I am sending you one of his pamplets. We talked a length about the affairs and benefits of veterans. He congradulated us for our effort and is in accord with the program.

Rev. Johnson is the Editor of a paper. I wrote an article for the next edition. He is also a member of the Ministerial Alliance and plans to discuss job and farm training at it's next meeting.

MINISTER, EDITOR-PUBLISHER AND PROMOTER

REV. R. H. JOHNSON

PRESIDENT AND FOUNDER OF THE GOOD NEIGHBORS, INC.
FOR "SELF-HELP"

THE GOOD NEIGHBORS, Inc.

35 NORTH PARRAMORE STREET

Address all Communications to:

P. O. Box 509 - - - Orlando, Florida

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Objective:

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC BETTERMENT

THE GOOD NEIGHBORS, Inc.

★

SUITE 211 — 1 WEST 125th STREET

NEW YORK 27, NEW YORK

★

Objective:

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC BETTERMENT

★

The time has come for the black man and woman of America, especially in the South, to get together and plan business and industry among themselves.

For a great many years, we have talked and wondered why black people do not produce or manufacture as other groups do.

The South has begun to wake up with a movement of social and economic betterment under the name of The Good Neighbors, Inc. This idea is several years old and was organized by your humble servant who is planning a one hundred million dollar organization to produce and manufacture clothes and other articles for men and women; opening textile factories, dry goods stores, dress shops, super-markets, mammoth agricultural production, food processing and marketing projects and any business which Black People may desire to open or venture into. These businesses will be on a cooperative plan and will give our people a chance to become a part owner by investing in our venture. Work opportunities will be opened for our people. This will create an economic interest in the businesses and will also place men and women not only in executive positions, but also will give them work and teach them trades.

This is a bona-fide and legitimate organization, and not a fly-by-night scheme, as all responsible persons are bonded, and most of the outstanding leaders and business men of all races have said and endorsed this movement as a great one, and it is absolutely needed among the Black People of America, both North and South. We have pledged ourselves to bring to our own people cooperative business enterprises.

Reasons For This Organization

(1) By the organization being nation-wide, the productive efforts of one section, the South or West will be marketed in the North or East and those of the North will be marketed in the South or elsewhere, ownership being in the entire group of shareholders according to their investments. Jobs will be created and some profits will be realized by the shareholders.

(2) Standing and working together as a race we can help create economic independence for ourselves. To increase the financial and moral status of the Black Man we must cooperate in the formation of this organization. Our unity in this enterprise will accomplish this.

(3) Our organization envisions cooperative merchandising through housewive's consumers leagues as well as through large wholesale and retail cooperatives.

(4) Through the success of our organization, the economic standing of our people will be lifted as we will produce thrifty, industrious and law-abiding citizens who will exercise the vote to realize the full fruits of democracy.

(5) Better race solidarity will be created by our striking a blow at the theory of "Divide and Rule" by uniting in this organization.

(6) No more will our high school or college graduates be forced to accept menial positions when they are qualified for better. This organization will give the jobs for which they are prepared and qualified.

(7) As a Black organization we are depending upon the help and cooperation of the Black People. This money will be used solely for the purposes of business development. Without the help of a large number of people economically as well as morally we will not be able to bring about these businesses. Be one of America's progressive Racial and cooperative-minded citizens. Write or call today for a Subscription Blank.

Together we stand: divided we fall. Do your part. In unity there is strength. Help yourself and Nation to Greater Economic Security.

All responsible persons are bonded.

Increase your respect for Humanity.

BE THRIFTY AND RACIAL - - BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!

Ask Us About Our Job Opportunities
Don't Delay . . . Act Today
In the Interest of Your Children
and Black Womanhood

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Street and Number

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City and State

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No. Years College_____

Available: Full Time_____ **Part Time**_____

If you do not care to use this blank please give it to someone else who may use it. Thank you.

Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 AUBURN AVENUE, N. E. ATLANTA 3, GEORGIA

Field Agent (Merkerson)

April 10, 1946

Dear Dr. Mitchell;

I am now in Tampa. I met Mr. Ray of the Tampa Times. He is a fine person.

Please have Mrs. Warwick to put in an order for some cards (personal) for me. I find that the need for them is great.

I will be back in Atlanta on the 17th. I am to speak at Morris Brown College on the 18th.

Sincerely,

Jack Merkerson

Mcpherson
Tampa

Field agent

April 14, 1946

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

One of the first persons I met after arriving in Tampa was Mr. B. Alonso, Supervisor of Veterans Education. Mr. Alonso and I talked at length about job training in Tampa. He pointed out that there were some twenty odd approved job training agencies for Negro in Tampa. About eight of these agencies are white concerns training Negroes.

Mr. Alonso is a very fine person. He put his office at my disposal for any future help and information that I might need.

After leaving Mr. Alonso, I went to the office of Mr. Ed. Ray, Editor of Tampa Times. I told him of my mission and he pledged his cooperation.

I asked Mr. Ray to reprint your article, "On the Job Instruction offered GIs." He promised to do so. We discussed and he promised to take pictures of veterans taking on the job training in Tampa and publish them in the paper.

After leaving Mr. Ray, I went back to the office of the Supervisor of Veterans Education to find the location of a place offering on the job training. I found one that was training white and colored veterans, Acme Tire Company, 706 Twiggs Street, Tampa, Florida. The veterans are learning Recapping, Rebuilding, and Vulcanizing.

I went to the Acme Tire Co. and met the manager, Mr. Earl Searly. He is a very fine person. I told him of our work and he congratulated us on our efforts. He showed me around the shop and introduced me to some of the veterans. I talked with three of them and they seemed pleased with their training and were getting along fime. The only complaint was the slowness of the supplementary check from the V.A. They were getting $30.00 a week from the Tire Co.

I called Mr. Ray and told him of my discovery. He thanked me for the tip.

I found out that there was no active Negro Business League or Chamber of Commerce in Tampa. I talked with Mr. Hammond of the Negro Citizen Committee. He stated that they were active and he would discuss the matter at their next meeting with the hope of getting more Negro Businessmen to apply for approval of their business.

I met the General Manager of the Tampa Bulletin, Mrs. M.E. Potter. She allowed me to write an article for the paper. I wrote: "On the Job Training offered Veterans."

I met Mr. Andrews, Editor of The Tampa Sentinel. He allowed me to write an article for his paper. I wrote: "More Negro Businesses Needed to Offer Job Training."

Mr. Andrews and Mrs. Potter promised to send us a copy of their paper. They asked for mats.

I spoke to a small group of the Hillsbrough County Veterans. I tried to encourage them to take advantage of their various benefits and pointed out that for those who

did not want to go to school that job training was a good deal. I referred them to the office of the Supervisor of Veterans Education for further information.

I spoke to the local chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity. This group was getting ready to observe its annual Bigger and Better Negro Business Week. I pointed out how job training would tie up with their theme.

One of the most influential person that I met was Rev. M.C. Strachan, President of Tampa NAACP. Rev. Strachan is a member of all of the active civic and political organizations in Tampa.

He is in accord with our program and pledged his support. I gave him some of the printed information that I had and referred him to the office of the Supervisor of Veterans Education for further information.

Rev. Strachan is a member of the Ministerial Alliance and promised to take the matter up with the ministers in regards to getting them to give publicity to job training from the pulpit.

Sincerely,
John W Sperkuso

Field agent
[illegible]

April 17, 1946

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

When I reached St. Petersburg I found out that the National Urban League was conducting a survey on Social and Economic Problems of The Negro in St. Petersburg. I met two of the Field Specialists from the Urban League, Dr. Dean and Mr. Robert Jefferson.

Mr. Jefferson informed me that ninety percent of the Negroes here were engaged in the service occupations. This is a tourist town and most of the tourist were leaving, thus creating a problem of unemployment. He gave me the names of some people that I might contact.

I went to see Mr. Evans of the USES. We talked at length about job training and he referred me to the Office of Mr. Berry for further and complete information. Mr. Berry is Supervisor of Veterans Education for St. Petersburg.

Mr. Berry was out of town but his secretary was able to give me some information about job training in St. Petersburg. She pointed out that there were a large number of approved training agencies in the town. She was not able to give me the exact number. Some of the white agencies were training co colored veterans.

I met one of the Negro leaders of St. Petersburg, a Mr. Weems, District Manager of the Afro American Insurance CO.

We talked about job training and he was in accord with the program. He told me that the veterans as a whole from his point of view were not taking advantage of their benefits especially those in St. Petersburg. He pointed out that there were no Negro Counseling Center or Advisory Center staffed by Negro personel.

A large number of St. Petersburg's Negro population read the Negro papers from Tampa, The Tampa Bulletin and The Tampa Sentenel. This would give them a chance to read the articles that would appear in them concerning job training.

I visited the Gibbs High School and I found that the principal remembered me from the Teachers meeting in Orlando at which place I made an appeal to the principals to encourage the veterans in their communities to take advantage of their benefits.

The principal, Mr. Perkins showed me around the building and the well equipped vocational shop. It is the best equipped shop in the state for Negroes. They have facilities to teach Auto Mechanics, Woodwork, Mechanical Drawing, and tailoring. The Negroes of St. Petersburg are proud of this setup.

St. Petersburg is giving lots to her veterans both white and colored. The only money that the veteran has to pay is the back taxes on the land. I talked to one Negro veteran who had secured on of the lots. He paid only $26.00 for it. The section for colored lots is a beautiful place and the Negroes are really taking advantage of the opportunity.

Sincerely,

John Merkerson

John Merkerson

Field Agent

April 27, 1946

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

I attended the meeting of the Florida Division of the SRC which met Friday April 26th in Tampa. There were around fifty (50) persons present.

The first part of the meeting was devoted to business with the installation of officers. Mr. Ed Ray is the newly made president of the Florida Div. of the SRC.

Dr. Guy Johnson told of the work of the Council. He mentioned the survey in Jacksonville, the Columbia Tenn case and several other things that the SRC is doing.

Dr. Gray of Fla. A & M College was the principal speaker. His speech was lengthy but interesting.

He pointed out the disparities in white and colored schools in the state of Florida. Dr. Gray had prepared a graph which showed that the disparities between white and colored schools were getting greater rather that smaller.

At the end of the meeting I had a chance to introduce myself. I told of our work but the time would not permit me to go into details. I was able to make some fine contacts, especially from Miami which is my next stop.

Sincerely
John McPherson

P.S. I am withholding my Tallahassee notes. I'll include them in my summary about on the job training in Florida.

Memo

Field Agent

May 5, 1946

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

My first stop in Miami was the Negro Branch of the U.S.E.S. This office is located in the Negro district and headed by Mr. Jackson and staffed with all Negro personel, three ladies and two men. I met the entire staff and talked at length with Mr. Jackson and the veteran advisor , Mr. Matthews. Mr. Jackson told me that his office has been placing nearly twelve hundred workers monthly but for the month of April, placements had drop to around three hundred.

Mr. Matthews told me that there was not a single job training agency for Negroes in Miami. He stated that he had referred some colored veterans to white agencies but they were refused each time. Mr. Matthews also stated that "The colored veterans in Miami are too down right lazy to try to help themselves". The average colored veteran in Miami can be found in the pool room or the beer parlor.

I went to the office of Mr. Don Mann, Director of Veterans Education , Miami, Florida. He stated that out of the two-hundred and ninety-four on the job training programs in Miami not a single one was for Negroes. He stated that he had talked with Mr. Blackus, Director of Colored Veterans Service Center, about getting some training agencies approved for Negroes. He had not heard any more from Mr. Blackus andstated that his office was perfectly willing to assist in getting some Negro training agencies approved.

On Tuesday, April 30, I had a conference with Mr. Reeves, Editor of the Miami Times, Mr. Graham, Director of the Negro Service Council and Mr. Pylze of the colored post AVC. This conference was arranged by Mr. Reeves. I told them about our work and my mission in Miami. I stated the facts about job training as I found them in Miami. They agreed that job training afforded wonderful opportunities for veterans. They agreed to cooperate in helping to get the program over.

Mr. Reeves asked me to write an article for his paper. Mr. Graham asked me to speak to another city group of which he is a member.

I met Mr. L.G. Blackus, Director of Colored Veteran Service Center. He has a very spacious office with two female clerks. He arranged a conference for the next day with some local leaders both white and colored. This conference was held in Mr. Blackus office . It was attended by Mr. Gans (white) of the local post of the American Legion, Mr. Faircloth (white) of the Negro police division and American Legion, Dr. Davis (colored) of the Greater Miami Civic Organization, Mr. Blackus and myself. I told them of my mission in Miami and about job training as I found it in regards to Negroes

It was believed by all that the Negro business men in Miami did not understand the program and should have it explained to them.

It was suggested and decided on to get a representative from all of the Negro business men in Miami to attend a meeting at which time Mr. Blackus will explain job training to them and ask their support.

Mr. Gans of the American Legion is going to help out in regards to getting white places to train Negro trainees. The meeting was very spirited and I believe that we were able to do a little good. Atleast, we hope to see the fruits of our labor in the near future.

Miami is a town with all kinds of Negro social and welfare agencies. These agencies should provide for better living and yet Miami is falling short in her services for Negro Veterans.

Sincerely,

John W. Merkerson

John W. Merkerson

May 17, 1946

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

The first person that I visited in Columbia was Mr. W. A. Schiffley, Director of Veterans Education. He stated that out of the 900 approved job training agencies in S.C. probably 5% were training Negroes.

Mr. Schiffley is an old school man. He has not pushed job training so much because he is afraid of exploitation, especially of Negro veterans. He further stated that he would not approve a training place unless ~~it~~ he was sure that the place had the proper equipment and facilities to

teach the skill in question. All job training agencies must provide for related classroom work. This is usually done through the local high schools.

Farm training is off to a fine start in S.C. There is at least one program for colored veterans in forty three (43) of S.C.'s forty six (46) counties. I am going to visit some of these places.

Although there are no approved job training agencies for Negroes in Columbia, there are twenty Negro veterans taking what is called cooperative training. These veterans are in the trade fields. They work out on the job at least six hours a day and must complete at least sixteen hours per week in school. They are paid by their employers and V.A.

These veterans go to Booker Washington High in the evenings for

related classroom instruction. Mr. Stevens is in charge.

I asked Mr. Stevens about taking some pictures of these veterans at work, for I had secured the services of the local newspaper. He stated that I had to get permission from the director a Mr. Foster (white)

I went to see Mr. Foster. He stated that he did not want to give this program any publicity because he was short of help. His budget would not permit him to pay instructors high salaries and thus he could not get help. Publicity would swamp his office with veterans that he could not help. He further stated that probably by June, he would be able to service more veterans. Frankly, I think that this is rotten.

I paid a visit to the U.S.E.S. office. Its Negro section is the typical around the back up the alley setup. The staff is all white. The veteran interviewer was out but I had learn that he is a fairly decent fellow.

I contacted the following informed persons Mrs. Hampton Paul State Home Ex Agent (Colored) Mr. J. C. Dickson, Farm Ex. Agent Mr. Keyes and Mr. Barrett of the U.S.O. Mrs. Paul invited me to Orangeburg on the 13th & 14th of June to the Farm Ex Agents meeting.

I got wonderful cooperation from the local newspapers. The Palmetto Leader and the Lighthouse and Informer. I am sending you a copy of the Palmetto Leader.

Sincerely,
John McLean

Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 AUBURN AVENUE, N. E. ATLANTA 3, GEORGIA

Field Agent

X

Columbia S.C.
May 18, 1946

Dear Dr Mitchell;

I visited the Veterans Guidance Center at Benedict College. It is a new setup, just about a month old. The all Negro staff consists of a director training officer, tester and a clerk. Mr. Gilliam is the director.

I talked with Mr. Gilliam and the training officer Mr. White about job, farm and cooperative training. They assured me that the Negro veterans who came through the center would

(2)

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be given all the information about job, farm and cooperative training.

Sumter S.C.

I have found some sixty odd colored veterans taking cooperative training. All of the men have not been placed on a job as yet but all take class room work from 3:15 P.M. to 8:15 P.M. five nights a week.

I talked with the colored director Mr. Williams. He stated that the interest that the men had was very high. I went around to some of the

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classes and talked to the men.

There will be a called meeting of colored veterans club here on Monday night. I am to be the guest speaker. I plan to ask the County Service Officer to come to the meeting.

I plan to go to Florence from here and getting back into Atlanta around the 25th.

Sincerely
J. W. Marburn

583 Houston St. N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia
May 30, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Southern Regional Council Inc.
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Sir:

I went to visit the Veterans Administration Guidance Center in Orangeburg S. C. It is located on State College campus. It has an all Negro staff with Mr. Chinchscale as director. As I went around to meet the staff, I observed the superiority air, the lack of having veterans at heart that prevailed among certain members of the staff. This type of situation in my mind is not conducive to good counseling and guidance.

There is only one veteran on the staff and he is a veteran of World War I. Here again is a bad situation.

In order to check on the accuracy of my observation, I contacted several of the local veterans who had been to the center for service. They had many complaints to make about the staff. They stated that one never feels at ease when he goes over for service. Their observations tallied with mine. I was then convienced that this was an unfortunate situation.

The local high school has been approved for on the farm training. I was told that there were twelve veterans attending this school who were eligible for this training but the vocational agriculture teacher had been reluctant in getting the program started. He had found out that he would not be a member of the faculty the next year.

Most of the veterans around Orangeburg are either in school, plan to enter in the fall or have a fairly decent job. This can be contributed to the fact that this is a college town.

Sincerely,

John W. Merkerson

John W. Merkerson

5-1-46

Field agent
Merkerson

NOTES TAKEN ON MERKERSON'S DESCRIPTION OF HIS TRIP TO FLORIDA -EARLY APRIL '46

In every county they employ a full-time supervisor. His title is Supervisor of Veterans Education, but his job is supervising job training - all white, no colored.

In Tampa Mr. Alonsa* put his office at Merkerson's disposal, files and everything. Twenty-five or thirty places were training Negro veterans, eight of them white concerns. Mr. Alonsa gave Merkerson name of a place training white and colored veterans together (2 colored and 2 white), learning auto repair.

Mr. Ray, editor of Tampa Daily Times, also president of Tampa branch of SRC, said he would take pictures and do story on job training at this place. Owner of shop is a veteran himself.

Florida is using intelligent, aggressive administration, and even though it is entirely in the hands of whites, they are trying to give colored a break. Might be improved if they used more colored. No talk about employing Veterans Administration training officers.

In St. Petersburg Negroes have one-third of the civil service jobs, but they are all semi-skilled jobs. Merkerson went to USES who referred him to State Supervisor of Education. Said quite a few on job training in St. Petersburg, and quite a few colored.

*
Supervisor of Veterans Education

GREENVILLE, S. C.

June 8, 1946

Dr. George Mitchell
Southern Regional Council Inc.
63 Auburn Ave.
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Dr. Mitchell;

My first stop was the U.S.E.S. Office and it was here I met Mr. Kemo (white) who works in the colored division. There are seperate offices for colored and white in seperate buildings in the same block. (Washington St)

There is no official advisor, interviewer or counselor in the colored division. Mr. Kemo serves in all of the capacities however, his main job is to handle unemployment claims.

Mr. Kemo, a native of Greenville was nice to talk to. He stated that there were nearly one hundred and

GREENVILLE, S. C.

fifty (150) colored farm veterans drawing self employment compensation.

I left the U.S.E.S. and went to the office of V.A. Here I met Mr. Hamilton. He referred me to the Director of Veterans Training Program, Mr. H. A. Ehming.

I went to Mr. Ehming office and after waiting awhile, Mr. Ehming came in. I was introduced and we talked for a long time. He stated that there were 75 colored veterans enrolled in the regular vocational classes at Sterling High and 18 veterans taking cooperative training. Classes are taught in Brick Laying, carpentry, steel sheet metal and auto mechanic.

GREENVILLE, S. C.

Mr. Ehming suggested that I see Prof. Beck, Principal of Sterling High and Supervisor of Negro Veterans training and also Mr. Giles Edwards. Mr. Ehming had one of his staff members to drive me out to Sterling High. (Believe it or not)

I met Mr. Edwards. We talked at length about cooperative training. He corrected Mr. Ehming figures to read as follows: 76 taking vocational training in the regular classes and 22 taking cooperative training. Veterans taking cooperative training ~~and~~ and doing productive work on the job are paid at least 40 cent per hour.

Negro veterans cooperative training opportunities are limited to certain fields. One particular

GREENVILLE, S. C.

veteran wanted radio repair and none of the white radio shops would accept him. The same is true with other trades. Veterans come as far as eleven miles to get the academic side of their coop-erative training.

Mr. Beck was out of his office at the time of my visit. I will see him before leaving Greenville.

Sincerely,

John Merkerson

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Field agent

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Orangeburg S.C.
June 15, 1946

Dear Dr. Mitchell;

After I arrived on the campus of State College I start looking for Mrs. Hampton Paul, Supervisor of Home Demonstration Agents; it was she who invited me over to the meeting. I finally found her and she stated that I was slated to talk to the group at the night session.

After leaving Mrs Paul I went over to the Guidance Center and found my friend Mr. Burgess, V. A. training officer. I asked him to come over to the meeting and talk to the group about on the farm training. He said that he was sorry but he

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could not do it. It was against V.A.'s policy. The only way any V.A. employee can speak to a group outside of the office would be by request through channels.

Mr. Burgess stated that he would be glad to talk to the agents if they would come to the office individually or in groups. In the course of our conversation he mentioned that job and farm opportunities for Negroes were getting better throughout the state.

The night session was well attended. I was the first speaker. I explained from the outset that I was not a V.A. representative and complete details of what I was about to say could be obtained

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from the officials at the Guidance Center — on the campus.

I mentioned the fact that Negro veterans were missing out on many of their benefits, especially on the farm training because they were unaware of them. I pointed out that it was up to us as leaders to see to it that the Negro veterans in our communities know about their benefits. I urged each agent to become a salesman for on the farm training in his or her county.

I spoke for thirty minutes, after which scores of questions were asked from the floor.

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Many of the agents told of the situations in their counties. I will report on those situations when I return to the office.

I am headed for Tallahassee.

Sincerely,

J. W. Masterson

Florence, S.C.
June 28, 1946

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

In order to get an idea of what is being done in this section of the state for veterans, the first place I visited was the USES office. I was hoping to see the veteran counselor but I did not.

I found a lily white 90 percent female staff. One side of the building was for colored and the other for white.

After introducing myself to the receptionists, she told me that the man I should see was the V.A.'s contact representative Mr. Commander. I then took off for his office.

After waiting for nearly an hour, I finally talked with Mr. Commander. He stated that so far as he knew there were no Negro veterans taking on the job or cooperative training in Florence under P.L. 346. There are are few under P.L. 16. He mentioned the fact that most of the veterans (Negro) in this section are suffering with unemployment compensation fever. (Rocking Chair money as it is called in this section) Thus, not many of the colored veterans are applying for any kind of training. Mr. Commander suggested that I go see Mr. King at the Veterans Administration Guidance Center.

The V.A.'s Guidance Center is located in the Florence County Ag. Building. It is staffed with all white personel.

Mr. King (a training officer) was very cordial, interesting and authoritative.

He also stated the there were no job, ~~or~~ cooperative or farm training programs in Florence for colored veterans under P.L. 346.

He thought that the negroes lack of interest in the various tr. programs could be contributed to the rocking chair money. It was hard to leave Mr King's office. We talked for nearly two hours. He predicted that when the rocking chair money plays out the training programs will boom.

From these contacts, I was able to see just about what the colored veterans are doing here in Florence. I then set out to get the negro's side of the story. I found and talked with the principal of the negro high school, Mr. Anderson. He stated that he had made previous attempts in trying to get the veterans to enroll for institutional training there at the school. (academic + shop courses)

He finally got eight to come. Six have already droped out so the program is or has been for the past week discontinued. Mr. Anderson has just started in trying to setup cooperative programs. He stated that he has been scouting for places that he could put the fellows for their job training part of the program. So far, he has an auto mechanic shop and a few carpenters line up.

We decided that a mass meeting with speakers from the N.A. (if possible) and other veterans affairs officials would arouse the colored veterans interest in taking advantage of his benefits. We made plans for such an affair, the tentative date is Sunday July 14th.

I met the president of the local chapter of the N.A.A.C.P. He pledged the support of his group in putting over the mass meeting. Posters announcing the meeting will be printed at the expense of the local business

and professional club.

This town is in need of young Negro leaders. I have a meeting with a local group for Sunday evening. I am going over to Timmonsville before I leave and get a look at ~~that~~ the approved farm training program that is suppose to be in operation.

Sincerely,
John McPherson

40 Negro Veterans Ask for Training

Spartanburg S.C.

Forty Negro veterans have registered for carpentry, masonry, auto mechanics and electrical engineering training under the G. I. Bill of Rights, Principal C. C. Woodson of the Carver High School said yesterday.

The principal said that courses would begin when school opens in September.

The local contact office of the Veterans Administration on the second floor of the Montgomery Building will supply certificates of eligiblity upon presentation of discharge papers.

A married veteran also should supply his marriage certificate, birth certificates of children if any and an affidavit with his wife in the presence of a V. A. representative that they are married and living together.

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July 28, 1946

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

My first visit in Spartanburg, S. C. was the USES office. It was here where I met the Veterans Interviewer, Mr. Charles. He did not know much about the veterans training program in Spartanburg. However, he did say that a large number of Negro veterans were getting the one hundred dollars self employment compensation. These men were mostly farmers, a few were business men. I met one young man who had just opened a lunch room and had filed for his self employment compensation.

Mr. Charles stated that the population of Spartanburg was between thirty-five and thirty-seven thousands. The Negroes made up one third of this number. To date, one thousand Negro veterans have applied at the USES for service.

I was able to learn that the average Negro veteran draws his unemployment compensation(rocking chair money) for three weeks. If he does not accept a job, even if it's not in his particular field or near his field, he is cut off of the list permanently.

The next person I saw was Mr. Campbell, VA Contact Officer. I received a very cordial welcome. After I had stated my mission, Mr. Campbell stated that he was glad that I came because he was very much disturbed over the training programs for both colored and white in Spartanburg. Only a few have applied for and kind of training. Out of about four thousand or five thousands colored and white veterans, less than one hundred had applied for any educational benefits. He compared these figures with the three thousands and six hundred colored and white veterans that are in training in Greenville, S. C.

I further learned that for a time the local school officials could not get together on a training for veterans. (Institutional or trades) pressure from the local newspapers and other interested parties got the program started.

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In addition to the academic classes, other classes in carpentry, brick laying, auto mechanic and electrical engineering will be taught at the colored high school beginning with the fall term.

To date, there are about twenty-five Negro veterans taking on the job training. They are being trained as Funeral Directors, Auto Mechanics and Managers and Assistant Debit Managers in the Insurance field. One company is training eight men in this particular work.

I went to see the principal of the local Negro high school, Mr. C.C. woodson. He told me about the classes that are to start in September. Forty men have already enrolled for the vocational classes. The city has already bought eight thousand dollars worth of equipment for the shop. Mr. Woodson stated that he was making many personal contacts to get as many veterans as possible to enroll for the training. He thought that publicity through the churches would be a fine way to encrease the enrollment. We made plans to that effect.

I went to see the president of the local chapter of the NAACP, Dr. G. B. Brown. His group is planning a large membership meeting for the month of August. Mr. John Wesley Dobbs of Atlanta is to be the speaker for thr occasion. I will be given a place on the program to talk about training for veterans.

I also talked with the chairman of the NAACP'S Veterans Advisory Committee, Mr. Bolden. He also suggested that the church would be a good medium through which we could get our program over. He named several preachers that I should see.

The first minister I met was a Holliness preacher. He was very cooperative. He has a weekly radio program and promised to devote five minutes of his August 10th program speaking on education opportunities for veterans.

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Gaffney, South Carolina

I visited the small town of Gaffney, S. C. The population of this town is about seven thousand, Negroes make up about one third of this number. There are about seventy Negro veterans in the community, only eleven of them are taking training. All of these men are taking academic courses at the local high school. Summer school is being held and two of the men will take the State examination this summer for admittance to college this fall.

I went out to the school and met the instructor, Mr. Simpson. I talked to the men in his class. Mr. Simpson knew very little about the so called cooperative training program. When I explained it, he thought that it was just the thing for most of the colored veterans in Gaffney. He plans to see the school officials about getting the cooperative program startedfor colored veterans in Gaffney. I went by to see the Supt. of Schools but he was not in.

It seems as if the Red Cross is the most important agency in this town. Everybody goes to the Red Cross for advice. It was a Red Cross worker who got the training programs started in Gaffney. The lady's name is Mrs. Loetz. I had a long talk with Mrs. Loetz; she told me how hard she had to work to get the program going.

write her

Sincerely,

John W. Merkerson

John W. Merkerson

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August 4, 1946

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

Greenwood S. C. is a small mill town with a population of 15-17,000. 35-37% of this number make up the Negro population. There are about 4,000 veterans in Greenwood. 1,000-1200 are Negroes.

The town is practically owned by one man, Mr. Self who owns three Textile Mills. Several citizens with whom I talked stated that Mr. Self is a very fine person, liberal and progressive. I was told that his influence is responsible for the fair relationship that exist between the races.

The Supervisor of Veterans Education is Mr J. C. Turner. I met and had a long talk with Mr. Turner. He stated that the Negro school offered more training opportunities for veterans than the white school did for white veterans. The colored veterans can get carpentry, brick laying, painting, and auto mechanic in the trades fields where the white veterans as yet can only get carpentry, painting and mechanic.

In addition to trade training, veterans in Greenwood can get acedemic, cooperative and farm training. According to Mr. Turner, there are only 40 white veterans in training in Greenwood and there are 26 Negroes. According to the population the Negroes are out numbering the whites in taking advantage of these training opportunities.

I met the principal of the Negro high school, Mr. Sanders. He stated that there were 26 veterans enrolled in the veteran classes. These men were taking carpentry, painting, brick laying, and farming. Three Negro veterans are taking on the farm training.

I saw the new trades building that the veterans are building. The principal boosted about his very fine vocational teachers. He further stated that by the time school opens in the fall he will have 75% of the Negro veterans in school. Mr. Sanders invited me by to talk to his boys on the sixth of August.

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Mr. Sanders was loud in his praise for the Supervisor of Veterans Training, Mr. Turner. He stated that Mr. Turner believes and sees to it that the Negro veterans in Greenwood get the same opportunities that are available for whites. (those that are under his control).

I learned that there are four approved job training places in Greenwood, a Jeweler, auto Mechanic, cabinet maker and a welder. I was told that the welder and the cabinet maker have one Negro trainee each.

During my stay in Greenwood I visited the USES branch office. I was unable to get any information from this office about training for veterans.

I also visited the VA Contact office and met Mr. Ayers, Contact Representative. We talked for a while and he seemed very disturbed over the small number of veterans in his area (white and colored) that had asked for training opportunities.

Mr. Ayers was loud in his praise for our work. He feels that it is just the thing needed to get the veterans interested in bettering themselves educationally.

I am to return to Greenwood on the sixth of August to speak to the Negro veterans at the Brewer high school.

Sincerely,

John W. Merkerson

John W. Merkerson

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August 11,1946

Dear Dr.Mitchell;

I went back to Greenwood,S.C. on the 6th of August to speak to a group of Negro veterans. The meeting was held at the Negro high school.(Brewer) Thirty five veterans(all students) the principal and the vocational agriculture teacher were present.

In my talk I congradulated the men for taking advantage of their opportunities and asked each veteran to make himself a publicity agent and help get every veteran in Greenwood county to go to school or take some type of training. program

I talked for about forty minutes, after which questions were asked from the floor. The instructors stated that all of the men were doing fine in their work and showing keen interest.

Anderson South Carolina

Anderson is a small town of nearly 19,000 people. Approximately 30% of this number make up the Negro population. There are between 300-350 Negro veterans in Anderson.

At this point, I shall interupt my statistics to talk about the Superintendent of Public Schools in Anderson,Mr. M.F. Hawthorne.

I met Mr. Hawthorne and told him about our work. He is familiar with the SRC and congradulated us on our efforts. Mr. Hawthorne impressed me as being a very liberal and progressive individual.He stated that there were 31 Negro veterans taking auto mechanic at the local high school and there were 75 Negro veterans on the waiting list. Some of these are waiting to take classes that will be offered in the fall.

He further stated that the Board of Education had just approved the purchasing of another building (20 by 54) to be used as class rooms for Negro veterans. This addition will probably take care of the men that are now on the waiting list.

Classes in auto greasing, brick laying, carpentry,and woodwork will be offered in the fall.

I went out to the school and met the instructor in charge Mr. McDuffie. I learned that there were two classes in operation at the school. One class had fifteen men and the other sixteen. Classes start at 3 P.M. and last until 9 P.M. (auto mechanic)

All of the men but two are taking institutional training. The two exceptions are taking cooperative training.

I discovered that no Negro veteran in Anderson is taking OJT. I talked with Mr. Peek, Negro Funeral Director who is a member of the Negro Businessmen Club and he stated that he was sure that the Negro

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Businessmen in Anderson did not know much about the OJT program. He promised to take the matter up at their next meeting.

Now back to the statistics, with 300-350 Negro veterans in Anderson, 31 in school and 75 on the waiting list which makes a total of 106; it seems as if approximately 33% of Anderson's Negro veterans have entered or plan to enter school. I think that this is a fine start and a fair proportion.

I also went to the USES and the VA'S Contact Office but was unable to pick up much of interest about veterans education in Anderson.

Sincerely,

John W. Merkerson

Field agent

August 22, 1946

Mr. John W. Merkerson
63 Auburn Avenue, NE
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Mr. Merkerson:

I suggest that you mail out these extra copies to such persons who in your judgment are most apt to get something done along this line.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Atlanta, Georgia
September 2, 1946

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

Rock Hill, S. C. is a town of about 17,000 people. About 40% of this number make up the Negro Population. One official with whom I talked estimated that there were about 200 Negro veterans in Rock Hill.

38 Negro veterans are taking brick laying at the local school. They attend school for four hours a day, five days a week and on Tuesday night they take four hours of related class room work.

Classes in carpentry will be offered in September. This will make two trade training opportunities available for Negro veterans. There are no OJT programs in Rock Hill for Negroes. From the information that I received, none of the Negro veterans have asked for OJT.

Mr. Godlowe, President of Friendship College, is one of the most influential men in the town. He is responsible for the few men that are now in training. He stated that two mass meeting were held and only thirty-eight men responded.

Mr. Godlowe is a member of the SRC. I met him when I attended the meeting at Benedict College in Columbia and when I spoke at State College in Orangeburg.

The Superintendent of Public Schools, Mr. Sutherland, was out of town. I learned from one of his assistants that five or six Negro veterans were taking acedemic classes toward a diploma at the city high school. This school offered no trades.

According to the estimates that I received, I can say that about one-fifth of Rock Hill Negro veterans are taking advantage of their educational opportunities. Mr. Godlowe promises to keep pushing the programs. Lack of interest on the part of the veterans is his biggest barrier.

Sincerely,

John W. Merkerson

John W. Merkerson

September 20, 1946

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

Pensacola proper and greater Pensacola have a population of about 105,000. One official estimated that the Negro population made up between 25-30% of this number.

My first visit was to the office of Mr. Edwards, Supt. of Public Instruction. He was very cordial but immediately referred me to the Director of Veterans Education, Mr. E.A.Morrow.

I met Mr. Morrow and we talked for about thirty minutes. Mr. Morrow stated that 100-125 Negro veterans are taking OJT. These Negro trainees are employed by both colored and white employers. They are being trained as carpenters, mechanics, plasters, funeral directors, and insurance men.

With a few exceptions the present OJT program for Negro veterans is getting along OK. That is the white employers seem to be giving the Negro trainees a real bona fide training program. One incident was reported where the employer had a skilled Negro mechanic on the OJT program. This man has been ordered to discontinue his program.

A cooperative training program for colored veterans is in the making at the colored high school. Mr. Morrow asked me to look out for an instructor who could teach the related classroom subjects at night.

Another official with whom I talked was Mr. C.A.Conley, Director of Vocational Education. He stated that carpentry is the only trade that is offered at the local high school. The enrollment is 30.

Mr. Conley stated that $45,000 of the proposed bond issue had been alloted for the erection of a new trade building for Negroes. The opinion of the public seems to be in favor of the bonds.

Among the Negro leaders I was able to meet and talk with Mr. Means, who is an instructor at the B.T. Washington High School. Mr. Means is a veteran of World War 11 and has been appointed by the principal of the school to serve as counselor for the veterans who have enrolled and to render whatever service he can to all veterans.

I met Dr. Good, a member of SRC and Negro leader. stated that he had just received a telephone call from Mr. Morrow asking him to bring a committee down to his office to discuss plans for further extensive training programs for Negro veterans. Dr. Good promise to let me know the out come of the meeting.

From my observations, some thought has been given to the Negro veterans of Pensacola. I plan to return to Pensacola in the near future.

Sincerely,

John W. Merkerson

John W. Merkerson

After running through your memory of the Negro vocational schools for veterans you have seen or heard of in your area, will you list for me the one or two in your area that seem to you to present most interestingly the problems involved in getting such a school going well.

I have in mind going to five, six, or eight such schools and studying them closely.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

September 25, 1946

MEMORANDUM TO: Field Agents
FROM: George S. Mitchell

It looks as though I will have to make some special study on vocational schools myself.

After running through your memory of the Negro vocational schools for veterans you have seen or heard of in your area, will you list for me the one or two in your area that seem to you to present most interestingly the problems involved in getting such a school going well.

I have in mind going to five, six, or eight such schools and studying them closely.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

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Field agent

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September 29, 1946

Dear Miss Clay;

I understand that Dr. Mitchell and Mrs Warwick are out of the office, so I am forwarding my expense account to you. $23.21

I am also due (4) four days pay at ($8.00) eight ddllars per day. These days enclude September 21,22 28 and 29th.

I would be very grateful if you would mail my chec check to the following address, 583 Houston Street N.E Atlanta, Ga.

Sincerely,

John W. Merkerson

John W. Merkerson

PAUL D. WILLIAMS, RICHMOND
PRESIDENT
P. B. YOUNG, NORFOLK
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT
FRANK W. SPENCER, SAVANNAH
SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT
CARTER WESLEY, HOUSTON
THIRD VICE-PRESIDENT
CHARLES S. JOHNSON, NASHVILLE
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GEORGE S. MITCHELL
DIRECTOR OF VETERANS SERVICES
RAY WARWICK
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

Southern Regional Council, Inc.
ROOM 432, 63 AUBURN AVENUE, N. E. ATLANTA 3, GEORGIA

A Council to attain, through research and action, the ideals and practices of equal opportunity for all peoples in the South

October 4,1946

Dear Dr. Mitchell;

On my second visit to Spartanburg S.C. I found the proposed vocational classes for Negro veterans in reality. These classes are taught at the local colored high school under the cooperative plan.

At present, the enrollment is 64. These men have the opportunity to take one of the following trades; carpentry, auto mechanic, brick laying and upholstery.

One of the high lights of my trip was the short radio talk that I made over station W O R D at the invitation of Rev. Campbell, Holiness preacher. (Rev. Campbell has a weekly program)

This is a local station and it is estimated that the program is available to 40,000 listeners.

Here is a copy of the talk.

Good evening friends of the radio audience; I would like to call to the attention of all the veterans in and around Spartanburg to one of the greatest pieces of legislation ever written by the Congress of the U.S. The Servicemen Readjustment Act commonly called the G I Bill of Rights. This Bill among other things gives all veterans with 90 days of honorable service in the armed forces certain educationally benefits.

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These benefits include a chance to go back to school and work for a high school diploma, college degree or learn a trade. For those veterans who can't go back to full time school ~~the~~ there are the on the job, cooperative and apprenticeship programs.

Thousands of veterans throughout the nation are taking advantage of these opportunities. WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

For complete information about these programs contact your local county service, school officials,draft board or any other veteran servi agencyes

Veterans don't wait, Don't miss thesey wonderful opportunities. Enroll in some training program NOW

Sincerely,

John Merkerson

John Merkerson

583 Houston St. N.E.
Atlanta Georgia
November 12, 1946

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

On November 2nd and 3rd I visited Greenville S.C. for the second time. I found a great increase in the enrollment of Negro veterans in the veterans training programs. The enrollment has increased from less than one hundred to two hundred and sixty.

This number is made up of men taking straight academic courses on high school level, institutional trades and cooperative training. Under the institutional program the men are taking auto mechanic, carpentry, brick laying and painting.

Forty of the two hundred and sixty veterans are taking cooperative training. They are in the fields of auto mechanic, carpentry, brick laying and barbering.

One official stated that the large enrollment of Negro veterans into the various training programs is largely due to the interest that the veterans have in themselves, to the tune of trying to better their conditions. The general public has done nothing to arouse interest.

This large number of veterans in training gives Greenville a record that will outshine that of any other town that I have visited in S.C. to date. Greenville leads.

Sincerely,

John Mackey

Field agent

583 Houston Street N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia
November 11,1946

Dear Dr. Mitchell;

My second trip to Floremce S.C. found conditions pertaining to training programs and opportunities for Negro veterans far below, (as to other towns in S.C.) par. I found these same conditions on my former visit.

Mr. Anderson, Principal of Wilson High (colored) stated that there were only (35) thirty five Negro veterans taking institutional trade training at his school. These are the only Negroes on any kind of program, in Florence except the (15) fifteen enrolled at the high school in the regular acedemic courses.

I was informed that the thirty five veterans who are enrolled in the veterans training program are taking one of the following courses , carpentry or auto mechanic. I also learned that these men preferred institutional training rather than S.C.'s popular cooperative training. NO particular reason was given.

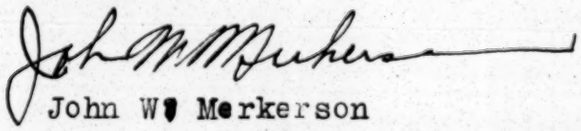
From my observation, I found that Florence is in need of good wide awake Negro leadership, especially from it's veterans rank or some one interasted in veteran affairs to arouse ~~some~~ The interest among Negro veterans/. These men are missing out on their opportunities.

I am of the opinion that the Negroes around Florence are to complacent.

A Negro veteran's organization is very much needed. I was told that there was no such organization in town for Negroes. I was fortunate to contact one of the town's well known young World War 11 veteran, Mr Prince Williams and approached him with the idea of setting up a chapter of the NCNV. He thought well of the idea.

Until Florenc can produce herself some good progressive leadership, I think that she will find herself far below the other towns in S.C. in this matter of veterans education.

Sincerely,



John W. Merkerson

November 20, 1946

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

On November 16th + 17th I paid my second visit to Anderson S.C. Unfortunately, I found the same inadequate training facilities for Negro veterans that existed on my previous visit.

On my first visit back in the summer I met Mr Hawthorne Supt. of Public Schools who stated that the Board of Education had just agreed to buy a building that would be used for additional classroom space to take care of the one hundred Negro veterans that were on the waiting list to take auto mechanic or carpentry.

To date, the building has not been purchased. Only a 20 foot extension to the still inadequate shop located at the local high school (Negro)

Plans have been made to contract a new trades building for whites.

The enrollment of the present active trade class (Negro) is 35. I was told that a large number of these men preferred other trades rather than auto mechanic but this is the only thing available.

One official or rather citizen with whom I talked stated that it was the opinion of most of the Negroes in Anderson that the Supt. of Schools is a fine and tolerant person and would help the Negroes but the Board of Education keeps him checked.

It is an obvious fact that Anderson needs some wide awake live wire Negro leadership. No single Negro or group of Negroes has undertaken this role. Everybody seems to be satisfied with the status quo.

There is no veteran organization in this town with Negro membership.

Here again is a very unfortunate situation.

With one hundred men on the waiting list to get in the trade classes The Negro citizenry with the veterans leading the fight have strong grounds for complaints. I made this observation to two of the leading Negro citizens.

Until somebody or something put some spirit, interest and determination in the Negro citizens in Anderson, I am sorry to say but Anderson will find herself far down the list in its training programs for Negro veterans.

Sincerely
John Mercer

583 Houston Street, N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia
December 10, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Southern Regional Council
63 Auburn Avenue
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

Darlington, S. C. is a small town of nearly 8,000 people. forty to forty-five percent of this number makes up the Negro population.

The chief occupations are farming and tobacco raising. Afew Negroes own businesses, such as, cafes, groceries stores, drug stores, and garages.

The Negro grammer and high school are on the same campus. The enrollment of the two is one thousand and ninety-five. Out of this number only eight are veterans. These men are working toward their high school diploma. There is one Negro veteran in the town taking on the job training.

Nearly three hundred citizens and veterans attended the mass meeting that was held at the Friendship Baptist Church. The meeting was interesting and spirited.

I tried to paint a fairly accurate picture as to the small number of Negro veterans enrolled in training courses throughout South Carolina. I urged the men to give up their membership in the 52-20 Club and enroll in some training program.

I reviewed the various educational benefits and referred the veterans to the Veterans Administration Office in Florence S. C. for full details.

At the close of the meeting one of the Negro Business men promised to take on two on the job trainees. Many congratulated us for our efforts and wished us continued success.

Sincerely,

J. W. Merkerson

J. W. Merkerson

P.S. There is no on the farm training program.

583 Houston Street N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia
January 14 1947

Dear Doctor Mitchell;

Recently, I visited the city or rather the town of Seneca, S.C. This is a small town of nearly 3,000 people. It was estimated that Negroes made up about 25% of the population.

Seneca is one of the largest towns in Oconee county. The county seat is Walhalla, S.C.

It was estimated that there are about 70 Negro veterans in Oconee County. About 30 of these veterans are in Seneca.

The educational opportunities for Negroes in Seneca are limited to academic high school and general shop training. There are only four Negro veterans enrolled in school in Seneca:

I was told that three or four veterans had found training opportunities elsewhere but the marjority were members of the 52-20 Club. It is evident that the 52-20 money is running out, because the principal, Mr. D.D. Thompson, stated that quite a few veterans have been coming to him trying to find out what they can get. (training)

I was told that a committee of Negro citizens tried to get the school officials to use the now vacated Seneca Jr. College building which belonged to Negroes for a Negro vocational school. I was told that the State officials agreed to the proposition and also the town officials. For some reason the project was dropped; the person with whom I talked was unable to state why.

I was told that two Negro veterans were taking farm training under the supervision of the Ag teacher from Westminister, S.C. These men are farm owners.

Seneca has a branch office of the U.S.E.S. The office is located in a one story brick building. The white and colored use the same entrance and same reception room, however, colored sit on one side and white on the other.

There are no veterans organization for Negroes in Seneca nor a State Service Officer to counsel veterans. The Negro principal who is a prominet citizen serves as counsellor for Negro veterans.

Sincerely,

John Merkerson

John Merkerson

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A Council to attain, through research and action, the ideals and practices of equal opportunity for all peoples in the South

January 21, 1947

Dear Veteran:

At the request of Mr. Leonard Hezzard, of Columbia, and on his behalf, I am writing to ask you to make a special effort to be present at a meeting on Saturday, January 25th at 2:00 p.m. at Benedict College, in the Chapel. This meeting is being called to discuss setting up a South Carolina statewide Negro veterans advisory committee.

Mr. Hezzard does not have in mind the establishment of any new veterans' organization in the usual sense, nor does he plan to try to recruit members to any existing organization in particular. The idea is to get a clearing-house of all interested veterans' groups, with a view to getting readier action on educational and other needs of Negro veterans.

We would appreciate your presence.

Sincerely,

John W. Merkerson

John W. Merkerson

JWM/lg

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We would appreciate your presence.

Sincerely,

John W. Merkerson

JWM/lg

John W. Merkerson

January 29, 1947

Mr. John W. Merkerson
585 Houston Street
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Mr. Merkerson:

As a matter of routine, please be kind enough to mail back to me the letter of introduction which I gave you when you started work in pay status with the Council, and also any unused visiting cards you may have on hand.

Sincerely,

GSM/lg

George S. Mitchell

Benedict College
Columbia, S.C.
February 14, 1947

Mr. John W. Merkerson
583 Houston St
Atlanta, Georgia.

Dear Mr. Merkerson,

The main reason we didn't send you a copy of the minutes we were waiting for the bill from the printing company for the stationery.

The cost of the stationery is $23.60 and $9.00 for stamps, totaling $32.60. We are waiting for this amount from you. We will send you the receipts.

Yours truly,
Ernest L. Wright

P.S. Please send us a copy of your constitution.

Mailing address

South Carolina Council of Veterans Affairs
Columbia, S.C.
Jan. 25, 1947

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 P.M. with Mr. Hazzard presiding. Mr. Hazzard presented Mr. Merkerson who explained what the meeting was about and told about the organizations in Georgia and Alabama.

The purpose of the organization is to find out the needs and recieve complaints from the veterans. The main problems of the veterans are a need of vocational schools (b) on the job training and more homes.

A vote was taken to organize the veterans of South Carolina. A motion was obtained and second to organize and call the organization South Carolina Council of veterans Affairs. It was suggested that we elect a president, secretary, treasurey and business managers. Men were nominated and voted on for the offices named above.

II

The following men were elected, George White - president, Ernest L. Wright - secretary, Douglas Sweeper - treasurer, Mr. James H. Coleman - business Manager.

The following men were elected for the districts of South Carolina. Franklin, Counts, Goodwin and Hazzard - Dist #1, Michel and Sams - Dist 2, Coleman and Goldsmith - Dist 3, Thompson and Wright - Dist 4, Dupree and Sweeper - Dist 5.

Seventy-five dollars was offered to the council for operating expenses by Mr. Merkerson.

Our next meeting is schedule for Saturday Feb. 1, 1947. In this meeting the business manager will report on the heading for the councils stationery.

George White - pres.
Ernest L. Wright - sec.

Merkerson

Tampa
Miami
St Petersburg
Orlando
Jacksonville
Tallahassee
LAKE CITY

Report by Mr. John H. Merkerson. File - Fla.

Florida handles its Veterans Education program on a county basis. Each County Superintendent of Public Instruction is responsible for the organization and supervision of the program in his County. This applies to men under P. L. 346. Men under P. L. 16 are handled through the VA.

Ten of Florida's sixty-seven counties have employed full time Directors of Veterans Education. (all white) These Directors and Superintendents have complete control of veterans education in their particular counties. The other fifty-seven counties have not hired Directors of Veterans Education and thus the organization and supervision of the programs are up to the county superintendent.

This plan centralizes administration and responsibility. It makes it possible for each county to use to the fullest extent all of its facilities for the training of veterans.

The use of Negro assistant directors or special Negro advisors to the superintendents would certainly help in planning and handling the training programs for Negro veterans.

The man who is in charge of all of these directors and superintendents, in regards to veterans education is Mr. Paul Eddy, Director of the State Department of Education and is located in Tallahassee, Florida. It is here where applications from business establishments to offer training programs are approved or dissapproved.

Here again, it is this writers opinion that a Negro advisor to Mr. Eddy's office would be a valuable asset.

In connection with the need of Negro advisors to help with the planning and administering the Negro veterans training programs, Florida can boast of its four Negro State Service Officers. Three of these are in Jacksonville and one in Miami.

These Assistant State Service Officers are paid by the State and furnished with well equipped offices and secretarial help. Large numbers of Negro veterans are making use of these Service Officers.

In all cases these officers serve more than one county. The need for more Negro Service Officers is apparent.

Institutional training in Florida has set a new enrollment record. All of the secondary schools and colleges both white and colored are crowded.

Next to acedemic training, job training has attracted the largest number of veterans. At present, more than 6,000 job training places have been approved for the training of veterans. Each training place is training one or more veteran. These places offer training opportunities in all sorts of skills and trades especially for white veterans. Related classroom work with job training is optional.

JOB TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEGROES

Out of Florida's large number of job training places, not more than ten percent offers opportunities to Negro veterans. Here are some observations as to why job training opportunities are so few for Negro veterans.

(1) Negro veterans are not fully acquainted with the program.

(2) The reluctance of white employers to train Negro veterans alongside white veterans.

(3) Negro businessmen have been slow in applying for approval of their establishments as training places.

(a) This is due largely to their lack of knowledge of the program.

(b) Most of them are engaged in small businesses and cannot afford a trainee.

Negro Insurance Companies lead all other Negro business in offering job training opportunities to colored veterans in Florida. A few colored veterans have found opportunities in auto mechanic, shoe repairing, carpentry, bricklaying and on printing jobs operated by men of their race.

One of the most progressive cities in Florida is Tampa, as compared to other cities visited.

Tampa has nearly four hundred approved job training places for veterans. At the time of this writing, a breakdown of this number by race was unattainable.

Some white businessmen have opened their doors to Negro veterans. For example, a certain tire company has two colored and two white veterans learning recapping, rebuilding and vulcanizing.

This writer visited this company and talked with the manager. He was pleased with the way the trainees were progressing.

The trainees were well satisfied with their training and felt they were receiving a wonderful opportunity.

There are a few other white concerns throughout the state training Negro veterans, but in most cases only as garage attendants, cooks, cleaners, pressers and the like.

From information gathered on job training Florida has suffered few irregularities. Only a few cases where employers have used job training as a means of cheap labor or failure to offer a bona fide training program have been reported.

It was reported that those irregularities have been corrected.

FARM TRAINING IN FLORIDA

Farm training for white and colored veterans got off to a very slow start.

The farm program was just offically introduced to the Negro Vocational Agriculture teachers this past June by the Supervisor of Vocational Education, Mr. Woods.

Florida farm training program is to follow the pattern laid down by the VA, with interest chiefly on farm owners, renters, and some instances sharecroppers.

To date, less than 100 farm training programs have been approved. The breakdown by race is not known by the writer at this time. Most of these programs are reported to be in the Northern part of the State.

Vocational Training For Negro Veterans in Florida.

There are eight approved Negro schools offering trade courses, as compared to about twenty for whites. Three of these eight Negro schools are colleges, leaving only five on the secondary level. Unfortunately, the majority of Negro veterans fall in the sub-college level.

These schools are not well distributed throughout the state. Most of them are located in the Northeastern part of the State. One is in the Northwestern part and two in the Southwest.

Except for a few cases, mainly the colleges, the trade opportunities for Negro veterans are limited to the following fields, auto mechanic, carpentry, bricklaying and general shop.

In all cases these schools are inadequately equipped and staffed. In all cases the schools are crowded, chiefly with non-veterans. One exception was noted in Jacksonville. Here, the enrollment is 90% veteran. In order to do a better job for Negro veterans in Florida, this writer is offering the following suggestions.

(1) The appointment of a Negro advisor to the State Director of Veterans Education.

(2) Each County setup a Negro advisory committee to assist the Director or Superintendent of Public Schools.

(3) More Negro Service Officers.

(4) More trade schools (well distributed)

ROCK HILL, S. C.

On my second trip to Rock Hill, S.C. ; I found the public schools opened; this made it possible to get a better view of the various veterans programs. I was able to meet and talk with most of the Negro teachers and community leaders.

I was able to learn that there is an inactive post (Negro) of the VFW. This post is headed by a World War I veteran, Mr. Hunt.

Mr. Hunt admitted that his group had never held a mass meeting or anything that would serve as inspirational or informational for the Negro veterans and general public of Rock Hill. Mr. Hunt further states his dissapointment in the majority of the Negro veterans around Rock Hill.He termed them as "rum heads" that don't care for anything.

On the bright side of the picture, Mr.Hunt stated that he knew of 12 veterans taking on the job training. Four of these are learning carpentry under a white contractor. The other 8 men have found training opportunities in one of the following fields; insurance, brick laying and plastering.

I called upon Mr. Hunt to let his group (VFW) to stage a mass meeting for the purpose of reinforming the Negro veterans in Rock Hill of their benefits. He promised to take the next meeting of his group.

One of the main reasons for this trip was to find a World War 11 veteran who would be willing and capable of organizing a group that would be instrumental in arousing the interest of the veterans in Rock Hill.

The man I contacted to do the job was Mr. Frontis Brooks. Mr. Brooks is band master at the local high school. He accepted the job and plans to go into the organization immediately.

In passing I learned that the veteran's brick laying class at th the local school had encreased in number from 38 to 45.Unfortunately this is the only trade that is avaliable for Negro veterans.(locally)

Sincerely,

John W. Merkerson

John W. Merkerson

1719 Louisiana, Ave
New Orleans, La.
May 10, 1946

Mr. George S. Mitchell,
Director Veterans Service
Room 432
63 Auburn Avenue, N.E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Sir;

On May 6, 1946 I went to Thibodaux, Louisiana As a Citizen Contact in the interest of Veterans Affairs. Seeking information as Whether they new where to go for certain information.

Upon Arrival I contacted the principal of the high school Mr. Robert M. Harris Jr. and through him I was able to Contact Mr. Louis Stearns Jr. a Veteran. I found that they have an Organization known as the Lafourche Parish Veteran Club and as each Veteran returns he is immediately contacted by one of the members of the Club.

It was found that the Veterans were Well informed About Places to get

information, however some of the person in Command were very reluctant in offering advise

There were none taking on the farm training at present, nor on job training because what they wanted was not offered and they do not have their certificate of eligibility and entellment. The trade of interest was brick masonary, disil, engene cadinet making and auto mechanic

A number of these are drawing their readjustment, on the other hand many has been declared ineligible, because of occupational spec number etc.

Thomas Shanklin Jr. is completing high school and plans to enter college this fall. He has all necessary papers

Eugene Welton was granted a loan to build a modern business place (Cafe) at 509 Back Street Thibodaux, La.

They were holding their meeting that monday night and I was able to contact them as a group because the fellows were from all the surrounding communities and some were from adjoining parish

of Terribone

The strength of the Club is forty seven (47) number and forty was present (40) at the meeting.

Information was obtain from Mr. L. Streams Jr. 631 St. Charles Street Thibadoux, La. a former teacher at the C. M. Washington School and Chairman of the Club, and Mr. R. M. Harris C. M. Washington School Thibadoux La. I did not talk to the Service Officer because he was out of town. I was informed that he is very reluctant about advising the fellows

At the present the interest of the Veterans was very high at this place and they are much concerned as to what they can do to better the condition of Veterans and bring about a more wholesome relationship between the races and improvement of the community in general.

They want to know if a representive would come out and bring literature that they could keep and advise the boys with their problems, In short they want to increase the pressure

* Advise requested, what can all do?

May 7, I went to Donaldsonville, La. I contact the supervisor, high school principal and Rev. A. C. Davis. They were much interested but were at a lost of what to do, because there is no service officer, however they recently got an employment service officer. They have been asked by the veterans for advise which they could not give. In the meantime they had written to one of the guidance centers for pamplets and materials as yet they have not received a reply.

Here the situation is Cadaicone because the returning servicemen do not know where to go for advise. I was informed by the principal Mr. A. C. Landis and Miss M. J. Bell Supervisor that the educational background of most Veterans that remain is very low and they wont come back to school. All they want is trade school, training on the farm, none are making use of it as to the knowledge to the Veterans Contacted and the above mention individuals. Due to the fact that most Veterans were scattered over the parish I was advised to come back by Miss Bell and she would have

them at a centralized point.

The person contacted and community standing are as followed.

Mr. E. C. Landis - Principal Lowery Training School Donaldsonville, La., Rev. A. C. Daniels - Same Address and Miss Melna J. Bell.

The following Veterans were contacted

1. Leonard J. Riley Jr. (2) John Murphy
Box 55 Rt. 2 Box 155
Darrow, Louisiana Donaldsonville, La.

3. Hewitt Lotten (4) Earnest Petersclaude
107 Mc Genas Ave Rt. 2 Box 176
Donaldsonville, La. Donaldsonville La.

Most of these wanted to go to Medical school, which would require more than four years and they are now in high school, beside they want two years of College before studying Medicine.

Personal contacted in Thibodaux, La.

Mr. R. M. Harris Jr. Principal of C. M. Washington School

Mr. Louis Stacani Jr. Veterans Journal School, Instructor and Chairman of Veterans Club
631 St Charles St., Thibodaux, La.

Thomas Shanklin Jr. In school, completing his high school work.

Eugene Welton — Business establishment (Cafe) through
509 Back Street G. D. Loom.
Thibodaux

Planing to attend school on the job training are.

Albert Morgan
Frank Morgan — Brick Masonary
Frank Lee — Diesil Engine

Talk to the following Vet.

Leonard J. Riley Jr.
Box 55
Harrow, La.

John Murphrey
Box 155
Donaldsonville, La.

Hurtt Lotten
107 Mc Genas, Ave.
Donaldsonville, La.

Earnest Petescleaux
R-2 Box 170
Donaldsonville, La.

School & Unemployment

Haywood Franklin
Box 15
Belle Rose, La

Clarence Joseph
Donaldsonville, La.

Warren Gomez - (Job training)
Donaldsonville, La.

Hillard Louis
R-2 Box 163
Donaldsonville, La.

John Murry
Donaldsonville, La.

Wilbert August
Belle Rose, La.

Henderson Murphray - Job training
Wilton Washington
Lawrence Canacy
Eddie Harris
Box 163
Donaldsonville, La.

Isaac Victor
923 Nolan Ave. City

Alis Wyre
Rt 2 Box 163
Donaldsonville, La.

John L. Comeaux
Belle Rose, La.

Stanley Ribert
Darrow, La.

4

Donaldsonville, Louisiana
Principal E. C. Landis - Lowery H. School
Rev. A. C. Daniels

Hebert Harris
Box 8
Modiste, La.

Henry Washington on the job training
Clem Washington
Joseph Washington
R-2
Gonzala, La.

Dinis Pedescleaux (school)
Victor Pedescleaux
R-2 Box 176
Donaldsonville, La

Eldridge Jones
934 Nolan Ave.
Donaldsonville, La.

Veterans desiring information for on job training, are unemployed at present

1719 Louisiana Avenue
New Orleans 15, Louisiana
May 17 1946

Mr. George S. Mitchell
Director Veterans Service
Room 432
63 Auburn Avenue, N.E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Sir:

On May 13, 1946 I went to Opelousa Louisiana for Citizens Committe on Service to Veterans. Upon Arrival in opelousa I went directly to the St. Landay Parish Training School, and talked with the Negro County Agent Concerning the Veterans of the town and the surrounding localties of the Parish. It was found that very little enthusiasm was taken by the masses to seek into their many Rights, except for the Readjustment Compensation. They are very much interested in on the job training, but no facilities are available in the City. and many do not want to leave At Present. They were Pretty up on their rights but in many cases they are not informed that they can go off to some other State and get the desired training.

According to information received from the County Agent the fellows have been called

together on various occassions and made promises that did not materialized any further as a results the interest has tend to die away. A general sentiment - why worry I'll get by. However there is a nucleus of these in the rural who have avail themselves to on the farm training and various opportunities. (a) furthering their education; (b) on farm training; (c) with fathers; (d) landlords (e) self-employed. But the Parish has not approved a single agriculture (vocational) teacher to supervise or instructed these fellows.

Question: Pressure to employ someone or a table veteran or veterans' to instruct these fellows, and not leave it soley to the veterans' themselves or landlords in many instances.

The lack on interest on the part of many veterans' is the number one problem thus many others are not considered. Due to white supremacy (esp. Supt. Moncla) some of the teachers are skeptic of working to the fullness of their ability with veterans'.

It was found that the opinion of the service officer that there were no qualified vocational instructor, however it was found that this was not true but mainly on account of the Parish Superintendent of Education.

(A) Change civic leaders with motinating the ideas of racial discrimination being practice by government administrators, instead of promoting wholesome good will and on

On the job training etc. wherein they will be benifited in future years.

From the County Agent 55 applicants have been approved for on the farm training in St Landry Parish. Of this number 15 are Negroes. None approved for instructors, but they are hoping to find some when schools are closed.

There were 540 Returning Negroes Veterans in the St Landry Parish.

The Committee is set up under Mr. Leon Robinson as Citizen Chairman because he goes all over the Parish and can easily make contact. He is not afraid of the Superintendent as most of the teachers are.

Of the 15 during on farm training Mr. Strange Fournier is self employed having a well diversified farm program. Cotton being the main crop. He has two Jersey milk cows hogs 143 chicken, and is receiving his check at present.

Mr. Mack Auzenne has established a very modern grocery business.

Visited was made to the following

1 Washington, Louisiana
2. Sunset, Louisiana
3. Leonville, Louisiana
4 Opelousas, Louisiana

Source of Information

1. Mr. Leon Robinson, County Agriculture Agent for Negroes
Opelousa, Louisiana

2. Mr. Lawerence Emmerson. Principal St. Landry Parish Training School.
P. O. Box 422
Opelousa, Louisiana

3. Mr. A. K. Smith. County Agriculture Agent (White) Approved Plats for Voc. Rehabilitation Training
Opelousa, Louisiana

4. Mr. E. Spyrier. Parish Veterans Service Officer (Temporarily)
Parish Courthouse
Opelousa Louisiana

5. Father Kerney.

6. Over telephone Dr Pujau who expressed his interest to work for the betterment of Negro veterans in order that Peace might reign Completely

All were very liberal in the work. The Parish Officer made several reluctant ~~Comments~~ in regards to the Civic leaders. a unwillingness to Accept responsibility to work but look for a Silver spoon.

Veterans' On the job and Farm training

1 Ballard, Joseph
Rt. 4 Box 325 — On the farm at Present
Opelousa, La.

2 Cain, Jr. Prick
Watra, La. — on the farm

3. Dumas Oshar
Watra. La. — on the farm

4. Cain, Earl — Carpentry
Washington, La.

5 Barnaba, Peter C. — on farm
Rt 3,
Opelousa La.

6. Eaglin, Joseph — on farm
Sunset, La.

7. White, Sylvester — on farm
Sunset, La.

8. Journien, Stange — on farm Self-employed
Rt.
Opelousa, La.

9. Shilo, Joseph
Gen. Del.
Opelousa, La — undicided

10. Eaglin, Howard — Business Bar. B-Q. & Cafe
Sunset, La.

11. Eaglin, Walter
Sunset, La. — Business Barber Shop and Beauty Shope

Trail, Anthony — Farm
Rt 4
Opelousa, La

12. Mosart, Walter, Package Liquor Store
Opelousa, La.

13. Alcendor, Mason — Modern Cafe
Opelousa, La.

14 Auzenne, Mack — Modern grocery
Rt.
Opelousa La.

Veterans' Contacted and their interest.

1. Giron, Hiram E — School of Pharmacy
502 Lombadd St — Morehouse College
Opelousa, La. — Atlanta, Ga.

2. Giron, Ashaton — Trade school
502 Lombardo St
Opelousa, La.

3. Giron, Arthur V. Jr — Graduate School Medicine
502 Lombardo St.
Opelousa La.

4. Norton, Allen — Radio Mechanic
Opelousa, La.
Norton, Felton — Diesil Engine
Opelousa, La.

5. Cunningham, Kelso — Tailoring
Opelousa, La.

6. Williams, Ralph — Vocational Education at Southern University

7 Lauergne, Eue — Barbing
Rt. 4.
Opelousa La.

Jackson, Arthur
Rt. 4
Opelousa, La.

Auto Mechanic

Hunt, Pat
Rt. 3 Box 184
Opelousa La.

Mechanic

Hunt, Eddie M.
Opelousa La.

Tailoring

Hunt Floyd C
P.O. Box 382
Opelousa, La.

Wood Work.

Poulert, Herbert
Opelousa La.

School.

Yours truly
Theodore R. Moses

The Committee is taken.

Field agents

May 21, 1946

Mr. Theodore R. Moses
1719 Louisiana Avenue
New Orleans 15, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Moses:

I am glad to have your results for May 10th and May 17th. Here is a check for the sum of the two expense accounts. Salary payments will be made as soon as Mr. Snowden has returned to this office the withholding tax blank that we sent him some days ago.

I have not had the opportunity of meeting and talking with you personally, so you must pardon me if I go into some detail by way of instruction, now that your first reports are in.

You give me a good deal of what I want - the results of your inquiries as to how the veterans are faring; development thus far of the various programs for veterans, particularly job and farm training; facilities for getting the training (such as how frequently a service officer is available in this or that town, whether the Negro veterans are well or ill-treated in service offices, whether service officers are staffed with all white or use some colored, etc.).

From time to time I would like more of your reflections on what to do about the bad conditions you run into. These will be helpful to me and they will be particularly helpful to Mr. Snowden.

Thank you for your accuracy in reporting the names and a word or two of description about the people you meet and talk with. Incidentally, it is not necessary to supply me with the details you have been giving as to individualsveterans. I want mainly the names of people in a position to influence community sentiment or administrative services in the town. If you will indicate race in each case, it will be helpful. In this work I need to know.

It is a little on one side, but I should say something about your

style of writing. It reads a bit like a college theme. Good, plain language is the best. Stay away from long words when you can. You are working mostly with country people. It is better not to raise a barrier by being extra educated yourself.

Purely as a matter of your own preparation for your career, I think you would be well advised to go to see your English professor and ask him how you can train yourself for accuracy. I note "cable" for capable; "the rural" (rural is an adjective); some of the teachers are "skeptic of working" (you mean sceptical). I knitted my brows a good deal over the following: "Charge civic leaders with motivating the ideas of racial descrimination being practice by government administrators, instead of promoting wholesome good will and on the job training, etc. wherein they will be benifeted in future years." I am still not sure I know what that means. You regularly use "advise" for advice. Certificate of eligibility and entitlement, you call "eligibility and entellment". Terrebonne Parish you call Terribone. At Donaldsonville your friends "at a lost of what to do"; you mean "at a loss as to what to do".

I am mailing you a stack of leaflets about on-the-job training. These may be a part of the answer as to what to give individuals or groups who have no knowledge at all of these programs.

Also, where you run into a group that is uninformed and wants to learn, get to the group or to its leaders the names and addresses of several available Veterans Administration contact officers, or put them in touch with the parish service officer. What you want to arrange is for some official of a veterans servicing agency to go and talk to the group. Mr. Snowden will have told you that I think it is very important for the people who work for me not to allow themselves to be put in a spot where they have to substitute for authorized servicing officials. You can see why. Whatever information you or I might give out would be a little different, at least, from what the authorized officials would give out, and as he is the guy who has to handle the cases, his work would be complicated greatly if those who reach him have been wrongly informed by private individuals. A large part of our job is to arrange contacts between the officials and the veterans and their friends.

Don't worry now about matters of style. Go ahead and do your job and write me as you please. I merely go into that matter because I am a professor, and I want to see students grow fast and rapidly.

Sincerely,

Field Agent

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

P. S. As to the expense accounts - I don't need to know the name of the hotel where you stayed, merely the town.

Field Agent

May 27, 1946

Mr. Theodore R. Moses
1719 Louisiana Avenue
New Orleans 15, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Moses:

Thank you for your report of May 26th. This is a great improvement. I can see that you went about it in a businesslike way and got a lot of information and got several things done.

One or two points for the future:

> You are still not letting me know who is white and who is Negro. At this distance I have no sure way of knowing whether Mr. W. O. Williams or the Rev. Mr. A. L. Davis are white or Negro. This is also true of practically all the other people whom you mention and list. Perhaps your best plan would be to form the habit for the purpose of these reports of stating the race in parenthesis after each name mentioned. Then I know for sure.
>
> You speak of Mr. Ernest Grant's GI loan as having a per diam of two thousand dollars. Surely you mean a sum of two thousand dollars. Per diam is daily allowance.
>
> You say that the high school has a certain course. I don't know whether that is the Negro high school or the white high school.

Incidentally, won't you in your next report make use of your copy of this report of May 26th and tell me who was who by race in the May 26th report?

As to the unions, you can get the best slant on that from Mr. Snowden. Their discrimination is not easy to overcome. Wherever there is a Negro local of the union or where Negroes are admitted to the regular local, you can get things done. If you find instances of

union discrimination as to veterans desiring apprenticeship training, let me know all the particulars, and I can complain in some places where some good may result.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

1719 Louisiana Avenue
New Orleans 15, Louisiana
May 26, 1946

Mr. George S. Mitchell
63 Auburn Avenue
Atlanta 3, Georgia

My dear Mr. Mitchell:

As of May 20, 1946 under the Southern Regional Council, Inc. working with the Citizens Committee Service to Veterans, I visited Iberville Parish, the Parish seat being located in Plaquemine.

Upon arrival I contacted the high school principal and through his free cooperation I was able to gather the following information:

(1) On a whole the veterans are not showing much interest due to the attitude of the Service Officer. For the most part they are unemployed and a very few are going to school or on the job training. As for on the farm training there are none because of the location and they are unable to lease a large enough plot of land to meet the requirements of the County Agent and the Veterans Administration. Since that is a suger cane section most of the fellows will be unemployed until harvest time. It was found that they are pretty well up in the line of their rights and benefits because Mr. W. O. Williams knows most of them and has been and is still working very diligently with them. Through his efforts five are completing high school and will enter college under the G. I. Bill of Rights, ten others will graduate next year. One veteran is doing on the job training as a mechanic with the Texas and Pacific Railroad round house.

(2) The only G. I. loan granted to a veteran in Iberville Parish was to a Negro, Mr. Ernest Grant, the per diem was $2,000 to establish a cleaning and pressing firm. His firm has been approved for instruction in apprentice training. He has three. In the city two pressing establishments have been approved by the Veterans Administration (Negro).

The high school has the following courses approved by the State of Louisiana Department of Education: Cabinet making, general shop and brick masonry. There are a number of veterans in the Parish desirous of on the job training in the craft of brick masonry but are unable to take it because the white labor unions have objected and the service officer says he cannot do anything about it.

Information Desired: Since the G. I. Bill of Rights approved whatever courses meet the State's Educational Requirements, How and Why will they allow a Union to interfere? (Thus preventing the fellows from their desires and rights).

The Service Officer senses these facts but says despite his willingness time would not permit him to go into these problems fully checking the grievances. However, he showed great interest in keeping

veterans on common laboring jobs where they have no opportunity to rise above said specification. He evaded the issue that unionized labor was the interference because brick masonry is not being offered to veterans. However, the white supervisor says they are the main hindrance.

They are organizing a veterans club with Rev. A. L. Davis, Sr. serving as chairman as well as Mr. W. O. Williams. Rev. Davis is the chairman in Adjacent Committees.

In my opinion the veterans are in a chaotic condition as a whole.

Source of Information

Name and Address	Community Standing
Mr. W. O. Williams Iberville Parish Training School Plaquemine, Louisiana	Principal of Parish Training School
Rev. A. L. Davis, Sr. 908 Court Street Plaquemine, Louisiana	Minister
Mr. A. J. Hebert, Jr. Iberville Parish Service Officer Plaquemine, Louisiana	Service Officer (Parish)
Mr. Wiley McMillan White Castle, Louisiana	Former School Teacher Grocery Business

The citizens of Iberville Parish plated a live oak tree in memory of each Negro soldier who died in World War II on the School Campus.

Gold stars were awarded to the next of kin at this observance. At Christmas time a gift was given to the next of kin as a token of their gallant service.

The servicemen have been highly honored and if on-the-job training and employment could be increased progress could be considered normal. (According to Mr. W. O. Williams, Chairman).

The below named men promised to give veterans (Negroes) on-the-job training in their firms:

Mr. Charles Schnebilin, Plaquemine Brickyard, Bayou Plaquemine, Plaquemine, Louisiana

Mr. Augustus Gross, 1313 Court Street, Plaquemine, Louisiana (To employ veterans as electric helpers in on-the-job training).

The following veterans were contacted:

Mr. Leonce Gator General Delivery Plaquemine, Louisiana	
Mr. William Walker General Delivery Plaquemine, Louisiana	In School (Graduating)
Mr. Richard Clinton General Delivery Plaquemine, Louisiana	
Joseph Clinton (10th) Howard Wilson (7th) (Both) General Delivery Plaquemine, Louisiana	In School
Mr. Charles Eides General Delivery Plaquemine, Louisiana	On the job training at Texas and Pacific Railroad Round House, Addis, Louisiana
Mr. Mitchell Bowser Route 2, Box 282 Plaquemine, Louisiana	
Charlie Harris Route 2 Plaquemine, Louisiana	
Delmer Stewart Route 2, Box 282 Plaquemine, Louisiana	
JUSTIN Davis 908 Court Street Plaquemine, Louisiana	Mechanic - Self employed)

Very truly yours,

Theodore R. Moses

Theodore R. Moses

Field Agent

June 4, 1946

Mr. Theodore Moses
1719 Louisiana Avenue
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Moses:

Thank you for your report of May 31st, and the additional letter of the same date.

As you will see, I have written to the head man of apprenticeship training in Washington and asked him to enquire into the situation at Plaquemine.

I am not too hopeful of results, but it is right to complain.

As to the monthly subsistence of $16.50 for a veteran attending high school under Public 346. If I remember rightly what I have read, it is possible for subsistence to be paid in fractions of the whole amount, the fraction to be adjusted to the proportion of full-time education taken by the veteran in question. $16.25 is one-fourth of $65.00. I assume therefore that the man you speak of is taking one-fourth full-time education. If he is taking more than one-fourth time, he should appeal to the Veterans Administration for correction.

I quite agree with you that one of the master remedies for the whole problem of Negro veterans would be the employment of Negro contact officers. Anything you and your friends in Louisiana can do to further this is all to the good.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

F

1719 Louisiana Avenue
New Orleans, Louisiana
May 31, 1946

Mr. George S. Mitchell
63 Auburn Avenue, N.E.,
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

May 28 and 29, 1946 was devoted to a follow up in Opelousa to try and clear up some of the doubtful questions concerning veterans problems, and to try and find means of improving these conditions.

In way of improvement there are a few more veterans taking on the farm training and quite a few are planning to enter school with interest varying from special courses to straight educational college courses. As to the employment problem it is still very dark with cheap labor paying less than $20.00 so they refuse to work and any number of readjustment allowances has been canceled.

The type of business own and operated by veterans in St. Landry Parish are grocery stores, Ice Cream Parlors, cafes and night clubs, the latter being the larger established. Most of these were constructed by mean other than G.I.loans. It was found that several veterans desiring to do on the farm training were refused. Some were owners of small plots other lease land, reason was not enough ground to be gainfully employed. On the other hand several were renting on halves from white owners were approved. Negroes renting from Negroes were held up the specification of the law. (One case the fellow owned 10 acres)

Another problem of interest was a veterans entered high school under Public Law 346. The V.A. approved and agreed to pay the expense up to $500.00 per year. And under the same law they told him that his monthly subsistence was $16.25 per month. However no tution is involved in the public schools system of Louisiana.

In my opinion the citizens of the parish knows about the veterans rights but feels that they should be paid for the services to them (this is the opinion of some) (2) Due to white supremecy they are afraid to organize, as they would like some protection when ask what are you getting together plans for a race riot,etc. They believe that it isn't an organization to help the veterans to better their condition and to promote good will, especially when no foundation is paying them. (3) Place some colored contact men in the office where veterans will feel free to express his problem. They are afraid for various reasons shy of white service officers. Some of the many reasons are the tone of voice, facial expression, attitudes, etc. (4) Until administrators are place in public office that will performed the job as service to the citizens of a democratic country we will always have the Negroes progress retarded. (5) Back the economical security of those citizens who are venturing to motivate interest and progress of the veterans.

The colored population of St. Landry Parish is 7500 and the following is the percentage distribution of occupations:

Agriculture	70 percent	Business	8 percent	Domestic	10 percent
Professional	½ percent	Mechanical	1 percent	Mill work	½ percent
Others	10 percent				

So I feel that on the farm training is needed and would be very helpful to thi parish.

Source of information and community standing.

Mr. Leon Robinson (Colored) County Agent
Mr. A.K. Smith (White County Agent for entire parish white and Negroes
Mrs. A.D. Auzene Colored, Supervisor
Mr. A.V. Giron Colored, Teacher
Mr. Lawrence Emerson Colored, Principle
Mr. Lewis Jeaun Colored, Farmer

Very truly yours,

Theodore Moses

THEODORE MOSES

Field Agent

June 11, 1946

Mr. Theodore R. Moses
1719 Louisiana Avenue
New Orleans 15, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Moses:

Thank you for your report of June 8th.

I feel sure you have got things moving around Lafayetter, although the situation does not sound to comfortable.

It is all right to send in your expense account direct without Mr. Snowden's approval when you are unable to reach him.

In my conversation with Mr. Snowden we talked in terms of you and Mr. Brazier traveling out to most or all of the parishes in South Louisiana. The idea was that you would fit the work in with your college work.

The northern part of Louisiana from Baton Rouge on up has been fairly well worked by Mr. January.

I don't suppose it will take more than another couple of months of these trips, a day or two a week, for the two of you to get over nearly all the parishes in the southern part of the State. Therefore, I would expect this job to run out at the end of July.

I do want to come to New Orleans to see you, but cannot plan as yet to make the trip.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

1719 Louisiana Avenue
New Orleans 15, Louisiana
June 8, 1946

Mr. George S. Mitchell
63 Auburn Avenue N.E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

My dear Mr. Mitchell:

June 3, I went to Lafayette Parish, Lafayette, Louisiana continuing the work of Citizens Committee Service to veterans.

The veterans in this Parish are establishing themselves in business with their own finace, or their parents are financing them. They are not making use of their G.I. loans. Upon questioning it was revealed, that too much red tape was involved in securing these loans. The service officer was not at all useful in assisting these veterans. His reactions were negative.

There is another problem that exist in Lafayette and the parish, and that is religion. For the most part Catholic predominate and they do not cooperate unless Father says so. It seems that the Priests are interested only in the veterans who are catholic. The Negroes are divided among themselves. However, I went ahead and made plans to organized A Citizens Committee, of course, I will have to return at a latter date to try and guide them in such a way that all the veterans of both religions faith will receive the benefits.

I contacted the Priests, ministers, and other citizens. They were willing to put forth every effort in the interest of the veterans, that, they may receive their benefits and help them establish themselves.

It was found that the white veterans that AS the farmers are taking advantages of this on farm training in large numbers. They are being instructed by the Vocational Agreiculture Director of Southwestern Institute. In the Parish ten Negroes applied. So far seven are receiving

their checks, three are pending. I asked the Service Officer if they were being instructed as the white veterans, and he said I think so(rather reluntantly), of course, the Service Officer claims that no difference is made when veterans come to him for information; color or race were forgotten. But some of the Negro veterans say that he is very nasty with Negroes, and they stay away from him.

In any number of cases veterans desirious of schooling have had to answer questions. "What school are you going?" "Can you enter this fall?" If they can't answer yes, their blanks never leave the office, as they never hear from them.

The Principal of the Negro high school says that the fellows are carefree and don't try and get anything out the twenty dollars a week, however I was informed, that he is what is commonly known as a (handkerchief head). However he said he thought the program was very good and needed, but said he wouldn't be able to take part at present.

Despite all these factors the Nucleus are trying to establish themselves. They are engaged in groceries business, cafe's, saloons, and Night clubs, also pressing shops, and taxi cabs. None borrow money from V.A.

Most of the veterans come under public law 346. A few are under public law 16, ranging from 50 per cent to 100 per cent disability.

There are a number of town near Lafyette the distance being from 5 to 10 miles and in order to contact these veterans, the service of a taxi cab was necessary. In the town Youngville, two thirds of the veterans did not know where to go, or who to see about their rights and benefits. However, most of them are working on sugar cane plantations. The town of Broussard was just about the same, with the exception of approximately six or seven have gone away to other states to take trades and general educational courses.

In my opinion with the majority of the veterans coming from the farm on the farm training would be helpful and proper for this section, if administered correctly.

The general attitude of all the citizens were willing and promise to go in for the programs, one hundred per cent, and are already organizing the committee jointly with the veterans club.

The Citizens are very interested, but among themselves they are not united as they should, of course, this may be contributed to the following: (1) Religious belief (2) some civic leaders want act until they get the go signal from the white man. (3) They fail to relize that where there is unity there is strength. Well from a war census illitricy was very high is this Parish.

I am hoping in the near future arrangements can be made where we can meet face to face, because some real important things are hard to explain on paper.

In the next meeting the Service Officer promise to come and explain to the veterans the one form and one job training.

Among the veterans many plans to return to school and complete their high school and college work. Their interest varying from medicine to specializing in music etc.

The unemployment problem is very grave, because all they can offer is working on cane farms, paying thirty five cent an hour, and they are refusing although they are being cut off from their readjustment pay.

Lafayette Parish will require much work. However, I feel that if a more wholesome relationship between Catholic and Protestant could be created everything would be grand. They have the citizens with money and influence to make it what it should be.

Please in your next letter give some idea about the economic security and stability of this work. Thank.

Source of information:

Mr. W. D. Smith, Lafayette Parish Tr. Sch., Lafayette, Louisiana. (Colored) Principal.

Mr. Loyd Foot, 318 9th Street, Lafayette, Louisiana. (Colored) Teacher.

Mr. Lumas Jones, 614 Clay Street, Lafayette, Louisiana. (Colored) Druggist

Mr. Ruddy Bozante, 913 111th Street, Lafayette, La. (Colored) Chairman vet club.

All of the above served in world war 11.

Dr. R. P. Jones, 503 Clay Street, Lafayette, Louisiana. (Colored) M.D.

Dr. L. R. Butler, 406 Gordon Street, Lafayette, La. (Colored) M.D.

Rev. A. R. Puter, P.O. box 293, Lafayette, Louisiana. (Colored) Minister.

Rev L. W. White, 320 Jackson Street, Lafayette, La. (Colored) Presiding Elder of AME Churches in La.

Mr. Chester Mouton, Lafayette, Louisiana. (Colored) Undertaker.

Mr. J. J. Prince, Court House, Lafayette Louisiana. (White) Parish Service Officer.

Father Duley, Lafayette Louisiana, (White) St Paul Catholic Priest.

Yours truly,

Theodore R Moses
Theodore R. Moses

P.S. Mr Floyd Andrews is one veteran under Public Law 16 100 Per cent disability. He has a Cleaning Pressing Shop and has employed three Veterans

Field Agent

June 19, 1946

Mr. Theodore R. Moses
1719 Louisiana Avenue
New Orleans 15, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Moses:

Many thanks for your good report of June 15. You have evidently been into tough territory.

It is bearly possible that you could open on-the-farm training for a limited number of plantation laborers without going through the forty-acre rigamarole. I am pretty sure the Louisiana contract with the Veterans Administration permits on-the-farm training for persons not owners or renters, provided they are to be trained in farm specialties. It is conceivable, though I admit not probable, that in such a parish as you visited a few big owners are breaking away from the rice and sugar business and would be willing to take on trainees for whatever particular thing they, the big farmers, are working at. Such a big plantation must have a few specialized jobs in blacksmithing or machinery operation and repair - some of them even in railroading. Anyway, that is worth discussing with the officials even if the only result is an occasional guilty conscience.

I am sorry that I simply went on an assumption that arose from one of my conversations with Mr. Snowden, who said he thought he could pick up a couple of men who are still in college. When he sent in your name and Mr. Brazier's, I just went on and assumed that the two of you were in some way attached to Dillard now. My apologies.

I may get to New Orleans yet before the end of July. I hope to.

Meanwhile, I am pleased with what you are getting done, and I greatly appreciate the energy, trouble, and worry that goes into it.

Sincerely,

GSM:w

George S. Mitchell

1719 Louisiana Avenue
New Orleans 15, Louisiana
June 15, 1946

Mr. George D. Mitchell
63 Auburn Avenue N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

Your letter of June 11th, has been received. I am very glad the June 8th report met your approval.

The letter somewhat puzzle me, especially paragraph four. It seems that in your conversation with Dr. Snowden the idea was to fit this work in with my college work. In fact, you did in the last sentence of the paragraph, and I quote "The idea was that you would fit the work in with your college work." Well as much as I enjoyed the Army. The work can not fit in with my college work, because it was completed five years ago, and if I had not been called to serve my country I would have completed my work for master degree.

At the beginning of this work you should have received a letter from me giving a history of my life, educational qualifications, experiences, and length of time spent in service.

As to the job being completed by the end of July sure it can, but all follow ups

Will not be completed, however Mr. Bohannon can do that.

Since the economic security in so short I deem it that a personal interview cannot be arranged.

Yours truly

Theodore R. Moses

1719 Louisiana Ave.

NEW ORLEANS, 15, LA.

June 15, 1946

Mr. George S. Mitchell
63 Auburn Avenue N. E.
Room 432
Atlanta, 3, Georgia

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

SUBJECT: Service of Citizens' Committee to Veterans- On the Job and On the Farm Training:

On June 10, 1946, I worked St. Mary Parish, the Parish Seat being in Franklin, Louisiana, the suburban town, where veterans are located being as following: Morgan City, Patterson, Baldwin, and Chararon.

In this parish it was found that On the Farm Training and On the Job Training had been explained to the veterans in general. This s service was rendered through the printing and posting of plaques, and write ups in the Parish Weekly Newspaper. Along with this the Service Officer visited Morgan City two days per week, and as a result, the veterans in and around town are aware of their benefits and solicite the aid of the Service Officer.

Now there is the group that live in the rural, who worked on the sugar cane plantation before entering the arm forces and since their return has resorted to the same occupation. This group very seldom come to town, do not take newspapers and above all, persons rendering service under the direction of organizations as the Southern Regional Council can not get to them because there are signs wich read No Trespassing. Since the owner is profiting on cheap labor, and the individual lack of knowledge, when you approach the plantation owner to explain your work, naturally, he is not going to be in accord. Therefore the veterans are not informed.

After talking with the secretary in the service officer office this agreement was reached:

1. The plantation owners would not lease forty acres (40) of land to an individual for On the Farm Training because the person would soon know the value of ownership, and as a result would try to become an independent farmer. (A) forty acres is the re-

quirement set up by count agent and superintendent of education.

2. He would lose money because if the individual remained after completing the training program he would demand more pay for his labor.

3. Cheap day labor would vanish.

From observation On Farm Training in St. Mary Parish will have little success if any, as far as the minority group of veterans and citizens are concerned because of the follwoing reasons:

A. Lack of land ownership
B. Unable to rent or lease enough land to meet the set requirements (in this case forty acres)
C. This is a sugar cane and rice section and a well planned diversified farm include more than the two crops
D. Income is too far apart
E. The government cannot provide money where security is so weak.

Now for On the Job Training, the few places that agree to take veterans on apprenticeship training have to wait so long for the State Department of Labor's approval. This was the expression of the service officer and the contact representive (white), as a result this program has not been successful as was intended.

In the case of schooling; the school has been slow in giving information as the courses offered veterans opportunities etc. These were colleges in the state backed by private endowments.

Most of the veterans are interested in trade schooling. Many have left for areas where they could get such training, however a large number are idle hoping something will develop in the home vicinity.

In spite of all these obstacles the V. A. is hoping to develop the On the Farm and On the Job Training Program by January 1947.

The Veterans Administration contacted representive says the s services are rendered in accordance with the principal of democracy, not creed or race but I have my own way of believing since he refuse to give his name and his attitude in general.

Here is a situation that has puzzle the service officer. A Negro Veteran of World War # with fifty per cent disability applied for On the Job Training under Public Law 16. According to the service officer the party concern; Mr. Loyd Nathan wanted to learn shoe repairing and had made arrangements with the manager of the Piranio Shoe Shoppe to work and learn the trade. They were awaiting his certificate of eligibility and entitlement under Public Law 16 from the Regional Office. He received a notice that his pension would be discontinued in 60 days. No examination

was given or no call to work out a rehabilitation program to meet with his service disability. Just the notification that he would be dropped. I was asked by the white secretary in the parish Service Officer's office to please include this in my report.

In general I feel they are interested in trying to help the v veterans with all his problems in connection with his benefits. This especially is true of the readjustment allowance. But in so doing they are resorting to cheap labor on the sugar cane plantation known as day labor.

The ministers and leading citizens are in full accord with the program but say not much progress could be expected before next year. The service officer offered his service freely at any time.

Source of Information:

Mr. Breaux and secretary
White Parish Service Officer
Franklin, Louisiana

Mr. Bordreaux (White)
Superintendent of Schools
Court House
Franklin, Louisiana

V. A. Contact Representive (would not give his name,white)
219 Willow Street
Franklin, Louisiana

Rue E. W. Wise (Colored) minister
910 First Street
Franklin, Louisiana

No school teachers were contacted because they are away in school etc.

Towns visited:

Morgan City -Veterans aware of their benefits and were trying to take advantage.

Patterson- Five miles from Morgan City was fair.

Baldwin- Veterans knew about some

Centerville and Chararon were very poorly informed. These are in the rural and little settlements adjacent to larger cane plantation, but not under plantation owner control.

Yours truly

Theodore R Moses

Theodore R. Moses
Field Agent

1719 Louisiana Avenue
New Orleans Louisiana
June 29, 1946

Mr. George S. Mitchell
63 Auburn Avenue N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Sir:

Subject: Citizens Committe Service to Veterans in the Southern Parishes of Louisiana.

The week of June 24, was spent in Vermillion Parish, Abbeville, Louisiana.

The situation in this parish was not at all encouraging from my observation. The service officer was not there, HE was attending a course at the Regional office in New Orleans. The representive in office was unable to give much information as to the effectiveness of on the farm and on the job training and its operation in the parish. However he said he didn't think it was being sort in any great number by White or Colored.

Generally speaking he felt that the Veterans in the parish was very slow and on a hold was not to well concerned about their benefits, other than the readjustment allowance. He said ninety per cent of the Veterans White and Colored falls in this catagory.

He base his assumpton on the fact that the number of trade schools in Louisiana and other places that can and will employ White Veterans, they are not making much use of their advantages. He futher, asserted that in comparison with the opportunites offered Negroes and White in this State the negroes are more in ernest about trades and general education, than the other group.

The percentage ofminority Veterans in this parish is very low, but of this group most of them did not return to the parish because ofthe opportunities offered in the line of advancement.

In this section there are no doctors, dentists or other inflerential Civic leaders. The school teachers for the most part are from other section therefore during the summer months they are away. My being a stranger and the representive as well he could not point out any one to see other than Mr. Charles LeBlance the parish service officer who was away.

NEGROES

His attitude was very pleasing and was very interest in the work (I say his, because he would not tell me his name,) and ask me to return at a later date when the service officer would be in his office.

I can not make statement as to just how sucessful the program will be in Vermillon Parish since I was unable to make contacts, however I can say this it look very very dark at present. Frankly this is the worst situation I have run into since I have been servicing as a field agent. The people in general are very slowful.

In general on the job training and on the farm training in this section will not make much progress because of the low per cent of land ownership. I shall contact Mr. Charles LeBlanc and get his decision before making any further statement.

Yours truly,

Theodore R Moses
Thedore Moses

P.S. a letter as a result of my work in Franklin, La.

Field agent

June 21, 1946

Mr. Theodore R. Moses
1719 Louisiana Avenue
New Orleans 15, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Moses:

I have asked Mr. Snowden to do what he can within the State about this matter. I would not advise you to push it further unless in cooperation with Mr. Snowden.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Field Agent

June 19, 1946

Mr. Theodore R. Moses
1719 Louisiana Avenue
New Orleans 15, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Moses:

As to the case of the man under Public Law 16 whose disability pension was discontinued when he applied for certificate of eligibility for training, it strikes me that it is eminently the business of the parish service officer to find out what the whole matter was. He is paid by the State and the parish to push claims of veterans.

If the man can get no help from the parish service officer, he is entitled to write or go direct to the office of the Louisiana State Veterans Service Board in New Orleans.

As I was repeatedly assured by Legion officials in Lohisiana that they would cheerfully and for free push the claims of any Negro veteran at any time, he might therefore try to get some local Legion post official to take it up.

If he does not care to go through any local channels, he could write direct to Mr. Joseph Albright, Special Assistant to the Administrator, Veterans Administration, Washington, D. C. Mr. Albright is a Negro, and would try earnestly and quietly to work it out.

My own advice would be to use local channels unless there are special circumstances. Also, the man could of course go ahead and apply for his certificate of eligibility under Public Law 346 and take a job at the Piranio Shoe Shop anyhow, the while he tries to straighten out his pension.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Franklin, Louisiana.

June 14, 1946.

Veterans Guidance Center,
Dillard University,
New Orleans, Louisiana.

Attention of Mr. Moses

Dear Sirs:

I was honorably discharged from the Navy last April, and am at this time interested in enrolling in a trade school to learn mechanics.

Any assistance or advice that you can give me would be very much appreciated. If possible, I should like to enter such a school in Fort Worth, Texas.

Very truly yours,

James F. Charles

James F. Charles

Route #1 Box 247A
Jeanerette, Louisiana

Field agent

July 9, 1946

Mr. Theodore R. Moses
1719 Louisiana Avenue
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Moses:

Thank you for your letter of July 6th.

Mr. Bohannon will be glad to have your information about the veterans club.

Incidentally, I have now reluctantly dropped Mr. January as of June 30th.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

1719 Louisiana Avenue
New Orleans, Louisiana
July 6, 1946

Mr. George S. Mitchell
63 Auburn Avenue N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Sir:

Subject: Citizens Committe Service to Veterans.

July week was spent in Thibodaux, Louisiana, with the La-Fourche Parish Veterans Club.

It was found that this club was still making progress in that more veterans are taking on the job of training. However they had to leave and go to the points in the North and West Coast. In the way of staying at home and obtaining desire training courses, very few opening are available for veterans of the minority group.

Some have re-enlisted rather than loaf the street. While the number returning to school of education has shown a remarkable increase.

There a few drawing their readjustment pay however quite a number has been cut off because they refuse to work for thirty five cent (.35) an hour. On the farm training is completly out of the picture altogether. They don't want it and are not going to take it is a general consent of all the veterans I contacted.

The service Officer was not in the parish. He was at the veterans Adminstration Regional Veterans Office going to school. However I was told that most of the servicemen problems were taken to the District Office in New Orleans. Main reason because of his attitude.

The LaFourche Parish Veterans Club in my opinion has done and still showing more enthusium than any of the Southern Parishes.

Mr. Louis Streams, Jr., the President takes advantage of every opportunity to bring to the fellows individuals who can and will bring information about their benefits, and who will encourage them to avail themselves to work for the bettermen of the group and the country in general. Recently he had Major J. C. Calvin of the U. S. Army to speak to the Veterans and Citizens of the community.

When Mr. Bohaman take out I suggest that he contact this club.

The following is a list of officers:

Louis Streams, Jr., (Negro) President
631 St. Charles St., Thibodaux, La.

Herman Zeno, Vice President
631 St. Charles St., Thibodaux, La.

Eugene Welton, Treasure
509 Bach St., Thibodaux, La.

Andrew Page, Financial Secretary
Thibodaux, La.

The outlook for the club is very encouraging, but the on the job and on farm training is very cadoic, on jobs training could do well but such poor poutlet. Therefore OUR phase of work will have a hard struggle.

However through the club many fellows has been employed with can tractors, but NO apprentic training.

Yours truly,

Theodore R. Moses

Theodore R. Moses

P.S.

Dear Mr. Mitchell;

After proof reading this report it was found that the typist made several typical errors. I would have had her to re-type it but she got off Thursday July 4, and will not return to School until July 8. Therefore I corrected it with pen and ink.

Yours truly

Theodore R. Moses

Field Agent

July 19, 1946

Mr. Theodore R. Moses
1719 Louisiana Avenue
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Moses:

Many thanks for your letter of July 13th.

I take it you have now been over the last of the unworked parishes. Presumably, such time as you can give to the work before the end of this month will go now to parishes visited earlier.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

1719 Louisiana Avenue
New Orleans, Louisiana
July 13, 1946

Mr. George S. Mitchell
63 Auburn Avenue N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Sir:

Subject: Citizens Committe Service to Veterans.

Continueing the service of the committe in the interest of veterans in the Southern Parishes of Louisiana, The week of July 8 and 9, was work in Evangaline Parish, this parish seat I immideately contacted the parish service officer in regards of the on the job, on the farm and the general interest of the Veterans about their benefits.

According to the information from the Parish service officer the Veterans are aware of his services and Pretty will inform of their benefits in a general way they have tried to make use of them, especially the institutional training from an educational point of view.

On the farm training program is in the embroartics stage at present hoping to be well un-the-way by the spring of 1947, that is the educational phase. As it stands now they don't know who will instruct the Veterans on the farms, because there is a severe shortage of vocational agriculture teachers in the parish. This is true of both groups of Veterans.

Of the total number, during on the farms training under the present conditions the other groups (white) constitute the vast majority, where as the smaller number of colored may be due to the lack of land ownership and successfulness in securing land lease (service officer statement.)

On the job training is not making much progress because this is strictly a rual section, therefore this phase on training is not functioning so readily.

In this parish as in many others the service officer is of the opinion that the readjustment pay is retarding the progress of the training program in general. I agree

The Veterans for the most parts are returning to the same jobs held before the war, with the intention of furthuring the educational training in institutions of higher learning.

The service officer was unable to give the number of persons inducted and what percentage returned and those who migrated to other places.

The service officer attitude was pretty fair, since he seem to be afraid that I was checking on him for higher authorities under disguise. He only answered questions to the points and made no efforts to build the discourse for information, well in my opinion I feel he was putting up a good pretense, and not real.

In my conversation with Mr. Frank the Vocational agriculture teacher. He felt that on the farm training if properly administered could be carried on successfully, in this parish as it was chiefly a farming section, and he is work very digently indirectly to get it on the way.

My Frank along with Rev. Pointer, are trying to organized a citizens committe and Veterans club in VillePlatte when this is accomplished I am to return for a recheck. I think that the on the farm training may be successful in this parish.

Source of information:

Mr. Wilson Shriff (White) service officer Evangeline Parish Court House
VillePlatte, Louisiana
Mr. Marshall J. Frank (Colored) Teacher
Teacher of Vocational Agriculture
Evangleline Parish training school
VillePlatte, Louisiana
Rev. Pointer (Colored Minister) VillePlatte, La.

Several Veterans and Citizens of the neighboring town of Mamouth where the majority of farming Veterans are located.

Yours truly,

Theodore R. Moses

Theodore R. Moses

Field Office

July 23, 1946

Mr. Theodore R. Moses
1719 Louisiana Avenue
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Moses:

I am glad to have your report of July 16th.

Your follow-ups are evidently valuable.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

1719 Louisiana Avenue
New Orleans, Louisiana
July 16, 1946

Mr. George S. Mitchell
63 Auburn Avenue
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Subject: Citizens Committee Service to Veterans.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed is a report of the work performed July 15, and 16, while rechecking in St. Landry Parish under the New Service officer, as well as the future out-look for on the farm training in this section.

I went to the service Officer explained my purpose and the nature of the program which he was aware because of a previous visit with the service officer before him. He felt that the program was a good one and could be a sucess as well as benefical to the entire parish of properly administerad.

After our conservation was completed I went in to see Mr. A. K. Smith the white county agent who has the final say as to whether the Veterans applying for on the farm training meet the requirements set up by the State and Parish.

While talking with him I was told that al-though they are allowing fellows to go ahead with the farming program. However the educational part, under a compatent vocational agriculture teacher is not being carried out for several reasons (1) Shortage of qualified vocational agriculture teachers (2) The Parish Superintendent of Education still refuses to give those in Parish permission to perform such duties. This is especially true with colored.

In views of allthis they are trying very hard to pull this program to the top because it will better the economical conditions of the parish.

We went over to see the Superintendent Mr. Monclair, but he was in Baton Rouge attending session of the Louisiana Legistive, at the request of the State Superindendent John E. Cox.

After leaving the officer I contacted several Veterans to find out if they were making use of the service officer services and his attitude in general when they go in to see him. They said he was pretty fair if you would wait until he see all the white. However in general they felt he was what you would call a pretty liberal fellow taking in consideration that St. Landry Parish is strickly lilly white.

Since his few week in office several fellows readjustment pay has be re-enstated also educational opining has been made for fellows to get in school.

Mr. Leon Robinson, Chairman is away at summer school teaching a vocational agriculture short course to State Agriculture teachers. Mrs. A. D. Auzene is at the work shop in Natchitoches, Louisiana and Mr. Emerson is studing this summer. Therefore Mr. A. V. Ciron was the only one the citizen committe contacted.

From the expression of the county agent and constant pressure on Mr. Monclair the Parish Superintendent by the committee and the Veterans themselves the instructional side may be assertain.

In my opinoin I say not until we the people of the United States of American learn to administerd services and rights on the basis of what our country stand for we will not make much progress. This is especially true in St. Landry Parish where the entire parish is suffering because white supremancy.

Now on the farm training it is hard to motivate because the farmers has got so many raw deals and when you have some one to speak relucant by about it the fellows say they are not going to do one thing.

Our nation depend upon the farmer for everything, but he is farmerly paid low prices etc. I tell you frankly the previosis farming Veterans know that and are trying to get away from the farm.

I say if our program was properly administered St. Landry Parish could profit a lot by it, because it has a well diversifid form program set up in the parish, one of the best in the entire State of Louisiana.

Thank you for the Material for Farmer-Veterans

Yours truly

Theodore R. Moses

1719 Louisiana Ave.
New Orleans 15, La.
July 27, 1946

Mr. George S. Mitchell
63 Auburn Ave. N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

Enclosed is gist of the work perform in Iberville Parish as a final recheck with the Citizens Committee Service to Veterans. When I arrived I talk with Mr. Herbert, the Service Officer, about the farm and on the job training program and its effectiveness in the Parish.

We also discuss the problem of the brick-masonary craft in the school as apprentiship training. According to his report of investigation, he found that although the Course was approved by for the boys in school, the same board would not approved the Course for Veterans because it could not offer the required training desired by the Veterans Administration for on the job training.

As to success of the form training, he felt it could not be carried out in this section because it could not meet the requirements set for the program. They are working very diligently with the on job training program and according to information received there is to few approved places for job training to meet the demand of Veterans. This is especially true for Negroes. For the white is some better, they have a greater choice, but in both cases it mainly automobile mechanic.

As a way of improvement they have succeeded in making possible for a few more fellows to get on the job training at the Texas and Pacific round house as Mechanic. They have four Negroes now. The number has increase for general educational indeavors. This we may feel safe in saying for those of the middle backet. There are those who's educational backgrounds family responsibilities, and various other reasons, are unable to go away for what they would like to learn. Now this group is the one creating an acute problem. To add to this phase of acuteness some could ge but says they have been away from home long enough and they are going to hold the government and his representives to their promises made during the war.

July 27, 1946

After leaving his office, I talk with Mr. W. W. Hardeaux, a veteran of World War II and President of the Iberville Parish Veterans Organization, about the problems of the Veterans add their aims as an organization. They are trying to provide opportunities for themselves as a minority group. As an organization they want to secure a charter state and national as the American Legion and other powerful organization. They have applied for a charter with the state with American Legion.

To be frank their aim and objectives are for more than Citizen Service's to Veterans planned. So you may look forward to them for a good deal of Correspondence for information and Guidance.

May I say that I personally feel that many of the Veterans are for getting that many promises made while in service were purely democratic, but when they left they were back under man made democracy. If you cannot get what you want, you may have to make a sacrifice and go some where else.

Source of Information

Mr. Herbert Service Officer	White	Service Officer Plaquemine, La.
Mr. W. W. Hardeaux Pres. Iberville Parish Vet. Or.	Colored	1508 Hoase St. Plaquemine, La.
Mr. Clarence Ellis Secretary of Organization	Colored	Same Via Mr. Hardeaux
Mr. Louis Parke	Colored	Treasure

The above are the Main Officers

For Mr. Bohaman:

They have a main body in Plaquemine, and to cover the entire Parish they have divided it into section with a Vice-President in each section. They hold their regular meeting weekly and once monthly. They call together all the Veterans of the Parish.

At this meeting all problems are discuss and cleared up if in the power of the organization.

They are very anxious to know how they can become apart of the National Organization.

I suggest that he get in touch with Mr. Hardeaux because they are very sincere and may prove to be a very successful Veterans Organization.

Sincerely yours,

Theodore R. Moses

Theodore R. Moses

Field agent

August 14, 1946

Mr. Theodore R. Moses
1719 Louisiana Avenue
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Moses:

I have been out on a field trip, which accounts for my delay in answering your good letters of July 27 and July 30.

I am most grateful for your kind and valuable help. I know the traveling and the interviewing has not been easy, but I am satisfied that you have accomplished a lot of good.

I still hope to get to New Orleans and shall make it my business to hunt you up.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Field Agent

September 12, 1946

Mr. Theodore R. Moses
1719 Louisiana Avenue
New Orleans 15, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Moses:

If I can reach you by phone, I wish you would let me know where. Of course I am most anxious to talk with you on this visit.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

1719 Louisiana Ave
New Orleans 15 La.
July 31, 1946

Mr. George S Mitchell
63 Auburn Avenue, N.E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

Assuming that this the end of the work assigned. I want you to know that I have enjoyed the work, and if the Privilege Avails itself Again I shall be glad to Serve.

To Mr. Bohannon if I can assist him in Any way I shall be glad to do so.

Hoping you are well Please I am

Your Very Truly,
Theodore R. Moses

1719 Louisiana Avenue
New Orleans, Louisiana
July 30, 1946

Mr. George S. Mitchell
63 Auburn Avenue N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Sir:

Enclosed is brief report of the final recheck of the citizens committe service to Veterans in Euangeline Parish.

I talked with Mr. Wilson Sheriff the service officer, however not much progress toward the on the farm and on the job training has been made. But he said since his talk with Mr. Frank (~~at~~ my request). More Negro Veterans are coming to see him as well as applying for the farm training program for another year.

After leaving his office I talk with several different Veterans and some ot them express the fact that they didn't think the Service Officer help with anything but pension clains and hospital care. Since Mr. Frank told them what he was there for and took one or two in to see him they are taking more interest in their rights and benefits.

On the job training can not be carried out so very well, because there is no such established places that would meet the V. A. requirements. I agree because as I said before this is strictly a rual section.

The Veterans want on the job training but hate to leave home. Now that they have learned, they can go some where the trade training they desire can be ascertained with the high cost of living. Many feel that the substinal pay is for to little.

The club has not been completly orgainzed but is pretty well on the way. As you know the fellows of the rual takes a lots of conscientious work before you can get full cooperation.

The farm training should be very successful in Euangeline Parish, when the cadoic condition is reconverted, I am,

Yours truly,

Theodore R. Moses

Theodore R. Moses
Field Agent

Field Agent

October 8, 1946

Mr. Theodore R. Moses
290 W. 147th Street
Apt. 14
New York 30, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Moses:

I was glad to have your letter of September 19th and to see that you are entered at New York University. I am sure you are doing right in going on for your masters.

I had a pleasent little visit with Mr. Brazier. He was about to go out to California, but thinks he will probably come back to New Orleans soon.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Theodore R. Moses
1719 Louisiana Avenue
New Orleans 25, La.

290 W. 147th Street
Apt. 14
New York 30, New York
September 19, 1946

Mr. Georges Mitchell
63 Auburn Ave. N.E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

My dear Mr. Mitchell:

Your letter as of 12 September, 46 has been forward to me. Having awaited this golden moment so long I sincerely regret that I want be in New Orleans on 28 September, 1946.

It will be some time before I will return to New Orleans as I am during advance work for an M.A. Degree in Guidance and Personnel Administration at the School of Education of New York University.

Theodore R. Moses
1719 Louisiana Avenue
New Orleans 25, La.

Of course I have a heavy schedule, but if you will address your inquiry to me at the above address I shall be glad to render whatever service I may.

Any material you have available please send it to me.

With sincere regrets that a personal conservation during your stay in New Orleans can not be had. I am

Sincerely yours
Theodore R. Moses
Ex Field Agent

Field agent

May 20, 1946

Mr. Jewel M. Tatum
2020 Cable Street
Beaumont, Texas

Dear Mr. Tatum:

I failed to give you my home telephone number, which you might conceivably need in some emergency - Dearborn 5961. Home address - 906 Lullwater Road, NE.

The office has two telephone lines - either Walnut 7963 or Walnut 1821.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

7th Street Branch Y. M. C. A.
710 West 7th Street
Port Arthur, Texas
May 26, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

Thanks for your letter of May 20 containing your home address and office phone numbers which was forwarded to me here at Port Arthur, Texas.

Port Arthur, the most virile, most interesting and perhaps Texas's youngest Southwest city, has been quite fortunate through circumstances which have made it an ideal place in which to work and live.

Today it faces the most favorable phase of its economic outlook. It enjoys the fullest advantages of a high degree of industrialization and excellent climatic conditions.

Port Arthur, aside from being South Jefferson County's youngest city, is known the world-over as an important refining center and as an important shipping center for aviation and commercial gasoline, fuel oil, and other petroleum products on which our modern economy is in a great measure founded.

Prior to the war, the Port Arthur area had reached a position as the world's largest oil refining and shipping center. Based on figures compiled by the United States Army Engineers the Sabine waterways, which serves Port Arthur and the industries in the neighboring communities, carried more cargo tonnage than any other waterway in the United States excluding that of the New York Harbor.

Because of the tremendous expansion of the facilities for producing petroleum products, particularly high octane gasoline; the expansion of ship-building facilities at Port Arthur and the installation of her manufacturing enterprises, its population has increased 20 per cent since 1941 and today its total population, including its nearby communities is 75,000.

Some of the oil refineries and other industries to be found in Port Arthur include those of the Standard Brass and Manufacturing Company, The J & L Barrel Company, Great Lakes Carbon Corporations, The Texas Company, and the Atlantic Refining Company. Also in the Port Arthur Area is the nation's largest synthetic rubber manufacturing establishment with a capacity of 120,000 tons a year. The butadiene and synthetic rubber so manufactured are utilized by the government to insure the nation an adequate supply of synthetic rubber.

Thus you can see the many opportunities the veterans, both Negro and white, have in getting training and experience in the many jobs necessary to keep Port Arthur at its present place as well as enable it to become the leading industrial center in the world. However, it is a most striking thing to learn that out of the great need for skilled laborers in the many industries located in Port Arthur that Negroes are only employed to do the menial labor. In a sense, with a full understanding of the condition and struggle the Negro has in getting training or even jobs as skilled laborers in the south, it wasn't so striking.

In a large measure the 20 per cent increase in Port Arthur's population during the war resulted from the need of skilled laborers--this increase is mostly white, for more than 2,000 whites moved in from the rural and urban centers with no knowledge of skilled trades, but went to work as apprentices in the day and to trade schools at night. Today they are members of A F of L's labor unions which are keeping Negroes out as skilled laborers.

Now for a bit about my interviews here at Port Arthur: I arrived here Thursday morning at exactly 9:45 and went to the Veterans Administration Office in the basement of the United States Post Office.

When I entered I found the secretary busy talking with a (white) veteran so I took a seat in one of the many chairs for veterans who enter the office. After sitting here for about three minutes the secretary asked the veteran to pardon her a minute and called me to her desk. Said she, "could I help you?" Upon reaching her desk I showed her my letter and she took my name on a pad and asked me to take a seat for a few minutes. In less than two minutes she was back from the V. A.'s private office and said, "Mr. Tatum this way please". I walked up to the V. S. O's desk and stated my mission. He offered me a seat and we proceeded to talk about what was being accomplished for veterans which was about the same thing as found in Orange. Several hundred veterans have filed applications to enter school this summer and fall. We talked about on-the-job training and as was the case in Orange, white veterans are being placed with Negro veterans yet waiting and nothing being done to help them. The V. S. O, Mr. Harry F. Weaver, who is employed by the Federal Government, stated that he himself didnot make any placements for on-the-job training but such was being done by industries themselves. The program covers from bank teller to restaurant helpers.

I asked about the existence of a trade school in Port Arthur and he replied, "there is none here, but there is one for Negroes located at Marshall, Texas, and we have already sent one colored veteran to the trade school at Marshall". He also stated that he doesn't see why it wouldn't be possible to get a trade school started in Port Arthur. I asked him had he received any calls from the veterans to talk to them concerning their benefits under the G. I. Bill of Rights. Said he, "I have spoken to the whites several times but never received a call from the colored organization if there is one here". So, I asked him if it be possible for me to arrange an engagement would he speak to them. "Yes, I'll be more than glad to talk with them and not only that, but help them set-up a program for anything they may want to do", said Mr. Weaver.

Our talk lasted for fifty-three minutes and before I left Mr. Weaver gave me a list of other V. A. Advisors employed by the Federal Government throughout Texas and their addresses. He also gave me the name of a Mr. George W. Lacy, who is the executive secretary of the Colored Branch Y M C A located at 7th Street here. In addition to Mr. Lacey's name he gave me the name and address of Mr. W. F. Stamper (white), who is director of the "Veterans Information Center" located in the Bluestein Building at the corner of Proctor and Waco Streets in Port Arthur.

When I got ready to leave Mr. Weaver got up and shook my hand and said he was glad that I had come by and if there be anything he could do to help the veterans even if it be necessary for him to spend some extra hours in the afternoon he would be too glad to do so. "Be sure," he said,"and let me know when you want me to talk to the veterans about our on-the-job training."

I thanked him for the opportunity to talk with him and left for the Bluestein Building to see Mr. Stamper. I entered the office of Mr. Stamper and stated my purpose to his stenographer who told me Mr. Stamper was out but that I could talk with his assistant, Mr. B. L. McGee, Jr. Mr. McGee was busy talking to two white veterans so the stenographer offered me a seat in her office. While waiting for the chance to talk with Mr. McGee, I enjoyed a rather interesting conversation with the stenographer about Port Arthur as a growing industrial center. She was very friendly and an interesting person to talk with. In spite of the fact that I asked questions after question about Port Arthur she seemed to have been pleased to know that I was so interested in her city for she never did become impatient neither did I appear to be boring. The stenographer's office sets in the room just in front of Mr. McGee's and we could tell just when he was about through talking to the two veterans. As he brought his talk with them to a close we closed ours also. Just before going into Mr. McGee's office I thanked her very kindly for having been so patient during my inquiries about her city. Said she, "Oh! I enjoyed talking with you and was too glad to be of some assistance." I then left and went into the office of Mr. McGee.

Before I could get into his office good he was on his feet with

arm and hand extended to me and said, "McGee". I in turn shook hands with him and replied, "Tatum". Said Mr. McGee, "have a seat Mr. Tatum". My reply was, "thank you Mr. McGee" and I took a seat. After explaining to him my purpose for coming to see him he picked up a package of Lucky Strikes and offered me one, struck a match and placed his ash tray on his desk in reach of both of us.

We sat and puffed cigarettes and had a very interesting chat about veterans' problems for one hour and seventeen minutes. Mr. McGee, a veteran himself, is employed by the Veterans Information Center as assistant director. The Veterans Information Center is financed by the local American Red Cross. While talking, Mr. McGee said, "our office handles problems of all races but we have more whites to come in than colored from the Westside". He further stated, "Mr. Lacy, who is secretary of the Colored Branch Y. M. C.A. has asked that we set up a sub office on the Westside with a Negro to advise veterans for he, Mr. Lacy, feels that Negro veterans prefer talking with Negro advisors about their various problems". He also asked that I go by and talk with Mr. Lacy.

During the course of our conversation Mr. McGee had his stenographer to get copies of their monthly report of vetersns entering their office and a break down of their various problems. The report consisted of the number of veterans who sought advise on education, pensions, allotments, insurance, employment and other matters.

When we had finished, Mr. McGee also stated his willingness to work with me. Mr. Lacy, Mr. Mack Hannah, Mr. Weaver and others in getting something accomplished for the veterans of Port Arthur's Westside. I then thanked him and left for the Colored Branch Y. M. C. A. located on 7th street which is on the Westside of the city.

Mr. Lacy, a former teacher at the Lincoln High School and a pleasing person to meet, sat down and talked with me at length about his work and the interest he has taken in veterans. Being a veteran himself, he understands the many problems confronting the veterans on the Westside. He also gave me the names of several other leading Negroes who have the welfare of the veterans at heart.

Each week Mr. Lacy receives a list of Negro veterans who are discharged from the service and sends them a membership card in the Y. M. C. A. which is good for a period of ninety days. The membership gives the veteran the right to all privileges enjoyed by non-veterans who are members of the "Y". While attending the"Y" they are also encouraged to seek any information and advice they desire. By so extending this privilege, Mr. Lacy says, he is able to be of much service to the veterans. Mr. Lacy told me of his desire to have the Community Chest set up a branch of their down town office at the Y. M. C. A. with himself or some other Negro veteran advisor. This the Community Chest hasn't done yet but has been giving the idea some consideration.

Mr. Lacey also stated that he and Mr. Mack H. Hannah, who without any doubt is the most influential Negro in Port Arthur and who is in the undertaking and real estate business here, are planning to open a business college and trade school combined. Mr. Mack Hannah, Port Arthur's Westside's political boss and owner of the greatest portion of property and business establishments on the Westside, has a building which he is going to use for this purpose. I understand that Mr. Mack Hannah has access to all other materials necessary to set up the business and trade school. So, I took the stand to encourage the idea as well as offered my service in helping them set it up.

I went to Mr. Mack Hannah's office but he was out of town and I plan to come back here the second Wednesday in next month at which time the recently organized Negro American Legion Post will hold its meeting. At that time I expect to see Mr. Lacey and Mr. Mack Hannah together and work out a program for the veterans here at Port Arthur.

As Mr. Hannah was out of town I went over to the Lincoln High School to see Mr. W. E. Sampson, who is principal and whose attitude towards our purpose throughout Texas seems to be most indifferent. I went to his office and met the registrar who told Mr. Sampson I had come to see him. Mr. Sampson, a rather ageable fellow, who appears to be about 70, came out with an expression on his face that wouldn't have even pleased Hitler. D During my less than four minutes talk with him he was as indignant as he looked. When I asked him if he would be willing to work with Mr. Lacey, Mr. Mack Hannah and others in helping the veterans, a number who attended school under his administration, he replied, "I wouldn't dare do anything against you and the veterans but I am not what you might call interested in such". As I've said before, I try to learn as much as possible about the person I interview prior to my meeting him. This I did before going to Lincoln and from several ex-students, some who are in business and a few who are teachers under Mr. Sampson said that he is a real stooge when it comes to leadership in Port Arthur. So, I wasn't a bit surprized when I talked with him.

Leaving Mr. Sampson I met Mr. J. H. Alton, instructor of Manual Training at the Lincoln High School and Post Commander of the Lawrence Miller Post #7A of the American Legion. Mr. Alton asked that I come back and be with them in their next meeting on the second Wednesday night in June. I promised him I would and would also get the V. S. O. to be present and talk to the vets. To this statement he said, "do be present with us and bring the veterans advisor for I will, and I am sure the others of our post will enjoy hearing him."

I plan, when I return to Port Arthur, to see the personnel managers of some of the industries and union leaders to see if there is any way possible of getting the veterans in on their on-the-job training program.

Sincerely,

Jewel M. Tatum

JMT:gew

Field Agent

May 28, 1946

Mr. Jewel M. Tatum
2020 Cable Street
Beaumont, Texas

Dear Mr. Tatum:

I am quite delighted with your first report - May 21st.

You are doing a useful job and doing it well. Keep on going.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Booker T. Washington Homes
Orange, Texas
May 21, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Affairs
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

I am sure you have been eagerly awaiting the arrival of this letter, so here it is.

Well, I got off to a very good start, the beginning of which was as bright as a sunbeam. I left home this morning to go to Orange, Texas, which is the southeastern most city in Texas and the county seat of Orange, County. Its population is approximately 40,000. It is located on the Neches River which divides Texas and Louisiana and is an up and coming city the standpoint of industrial development. Located here are two shipyards namely, Consolidated Steel Corporation and The Livingston Shipbuilding Company and also a Du Pont Construction Company. The greater percantage of its inhabitants are employed in the industries named above.

Upon my arrival here at 12:15 P. M., I didnot waste any time in beginning my interviews. The first person I met was Mr. Elton Barrett, a very intelligent young Negro of about 22 years of age and who is secretary-manager of the Booker T. Washington Housing Project, 1610-5th Street, Orange, Texas.

After a rather lengthy talk with Mr. Barrett, about veterans and what they are doing as well as what is being done to help them readjust themselves, I learned that they were doing very little and a very little was being done for them, so I asked him to direct me to the Veterans' Service Officer which he as well as countless number of others didnot know was in Orange. Upon completing my talk with Mr. Barrett, in which I related to him my mission in Orange, he agreed to work along with me and others I met in the interest of the council's purpose.

Before leaving Mr. Barrett I met an old acquaintance, Mr. Charlie Rosenthal, owner-manager of the Dragon Theatre, who also stated his willingness to work in the interest of Veterans. Mr. Rosenthal like Mr. Barrett didnot know of the whereabouts of the Veterans Service Officer but carried me to town to help me look for his office. While in the bank making his deposits Mr. Rosenthal, who is well known by both white and colored citizens

of Orange, inquired about the V. S. O's office but to no avail. While waiting for him in the bank a veteran (white) walked in and I asked him and he told me just where I could find the Veteran County Service Officer, whose office is in the new courthouse and on the second floor. I thanked him for his assistance and left for the County Courthouse.

When I reached the courthouse I asked the lady at the desk for the name and room number of the C. V. O. I thanked her went to the office of Mr. C. A. Arsenault who was busy when I went in and after showing my letter and stating my mission the secretary informed him that someone wanted to speak to him. He came out of his office into the waiting room and introduced himself to me and asked if I would mind going over to the old courthouse and talk with the contact officer until he was finished and asked me to come back as soon as I had talked with the contact officer. He then directed me to the old courthouse building which is just behind the new one. To me he said, "be sure and come back by here after you talk to our contact officer, Mr. Mussina and by then I'll be through and be too glad to talk with you".

I went over to the old courthouse and went through the procedure of showing my letter and stating my mission to Mr. W. E. Mussina's secretary, who has a very pleasing personality and she carried me in and introduced me to Mr. Mussina and went back to her work. After being introduced to Mr. Mussina, who met me with a very warm welcome, he shook my hand and pulled up a chair and offered me a seat and here we talked for more than forty-five minutes. While we were talking Mr. Mussina got up several times to get letters he had written for veterans to enter college and get placements for on-the-job training. He said, "out of six months here as Veteran Contact Officer, I've had only ten Negro veterans to come in and talk with me and I can understand why I haven't seen anymore than ten." He further stated, "the War Dads, which is the organization of fathers of our white veterans, went around and got twenty-eight (28) places for me to have approved by the V. A. for on-the-job training and we have made the 28 placements but we have only one such place for your boys and we've placed two (2) in an automobile repair shop owned by a colored man by the name of Tom Seward".

Among some of the letters Mr. Mussina got from his files was one for a Negro veteran, I. D. Nash, who has been trying to get in the on-the-job training as a Motion Picture Projector at the Dragon Theatre owned by Mr. Rosenthal. Mr. Mussina stated, that he has not been able to place him yet because of the opposition of the union but he thinks he will be able to get him in in a few days.

While talking with Mr. Barrett I learned that they had an organization of veterans known as the "United Veterans of World War II" of which he is a member and which organization has no affiliation with the white veterans, so while talking with Mr. Mussina I asked him if he would speak to the Negro Veterans at 7:30 Monday night, which was their regular meeting night. In view of the fact that

he had not seen many of the Negro Veterans, Mr. Mussina expressed himself as being too glad to have the chance to talk with them and at 7:30 P. M. when the meeting started Mr. Mussina was present and ready to talk to the veterans. I was introduced to the veterans by Mr. Barrett, who is also secretary of the United Veterans of World War II and I in turn introduced Mr. Mussina who talked for exactly two (2) hours and eleven (11) minutes about education, insurance, pension, hospitalization and on-the-job training. The meeting was a success and the veterans were glad to have both me and Mr. Mussina present. Mr. Mussina stated to them, that he would be glad to work with them in placing veterans on-the-job training in Orange.

After talking with Mr. Mussina I went back over to the new court-house building to talk with Mr. Arsenault, County Veterans Officer and there we talked for thirty-three (33) minutes about on-the-job training. Mr. Arsenault said he had five (5) Negro veterans who wanted to take shoe repairing but he didnot know of any Negro shoe repair shops in Orange and told me if I could find any to let him know and he would have them examined and approved if they met the qualifications for on-the-job training for the five veterans.

I then left his office and went out in search for shoe repair shops and found two (2) and submitted the names and locations for his examination and approval.

At 3:00 o'clock I went to the Wallace High School and had a talk with Mrs. Emma H. Wallace, principal, for who the school is named, and she said that not a single veteran had returned to school. Said she, "I have met a number of them on the streets and they all have promised me they would come back but they haven't". Upon learning that the only trade being taught in her school was a little Manual Training I asked her what were the possibilities of teaching more trades this coming school year. She said again, "I think it is quite possible if we could get some of the veterans to come in and take the trade". I told her that I didn't think it would be a problem of getting the veterans back to school and I would let them know of the possibilities of learning a trade if they would attend. That I did in the meeting and I am going to follow it up and see just what can be developed for the veterans at Orange in the way of learning a trade at the Wallace High School.

Please give my regards to your staff. I shall expect to hear from you in the very near future.

Yours very truly,

Jewel M. Tatum

Jewel M. Tatum

P.S. Please send me some 8x10 paper and the material on on-the-farm training. Thanks

Field Agent

June 4, 1946

Mr. Jewel M. Tatum
2020 Cable Street
Beaumont, Texas

Dear Mr. Tatum:

That is a very interesting report from Port Arthur.

If you find that formal apprenticeship training is being denied Negroes and can pin down the details, let me know. I am anxious to provide specific information about that condition to the head of the Apprenticeship Training Service in the U. S. Department of Labor in Washington.

The details needed would be the unions involved, the names of any union officials who have gone on record as refusing to consider Negro veterans as apprentices, names of any firms known to be willing to take them if the union would consent, names of any Negro veterans who have actually applied for apprenticeship training and been refused on the grounds of race, etc.

I don't think the protest to Mr. Patterson in Washington will accomplish much in any individual case, but he should be told in the view of improving his own channels of correction.

You are right to do whatever you can to encourage new trade training schools for Negroes. Many of them at first will be weak, but practically all schools start weak.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Field Agent

June 11, 1946

Mr. Jewel M. Tatum
2020 Cable Street
Beaumont, Texas

Dear Mr. Tatum:

I greatly enjoyed your able and interesting report on Beaumont. Your first hour at the USES office must have reminded you a bit of our mock interview in this office.

It may quite well be that what is being accomplished with Lincoln Business College may start the process of getting a bang-up trade school in Beaumont for Negroes. Maybe the Legion and the city and State educational officials could be interested in helping it to expand.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

2020 Cable Street
Beaumont, Texas
June 5, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services
Southern Regional Counsel, Inc.
63 Auburn Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

This week's report is on my home town, Beaumont, which is perhaps Texas' six largest city and the chief city of one of the richest areas in the nation. Its 100, 000 inhabitants enjoy a mild climate and an exceptionally high health rating. The wealth of this city springs from many sources such as no other of its size or larger in the entire United States.

Beaumont is the center of the south's rice industry. Its tens of thousands of acreas of rich land produce millions of dollars worth of this important crop annually. In Beaumont are three rice mills including the largest miller of a nationally known packaged and within a 50 mile radius there are more cattle than in any other similar area in the nation. A wide variety of soils in this immediate area is suitable not only for rice but for many other products, chermurgic crops.

Excluding the rice industry, mentioned in the above paragraph as one of its sources of wealth, Beaumont has any number of other industries which may be listed as follow: The Magnolia Refinery, Pennsylvania Shipbuilding Company, Beaumont Iron Works, The Texas Company, The Humble and Houston Oil. Because of the Spindle Top Oil Fields, located a few miles out-side of the city limits, it was and is yet the training ground of the oil industry, and many a leading figure in the petroleum world received his first oil experience here. Too, because of its waterways it is

widely known as a shipping center to the extent that it is often referred to as the " Port-of-Beaumont where the Great East Texas Meets the Sea."

From one point of view I've been somewhat let down with regards to the way I've been received by a few of the Whites I've contacted. Perhaps this let-down is due to the way I've been received at both, Orange and Port Arthur. For at these two places the treatment and respect given by the whites made me feel as if I played a rather important role in the progress of both cities but, here at home, I haven't had the pleasure of enjoying such a fine feeling--for this thing of offering me a seat and getting the stenographer to get statistical data on what is being done for Veterans did not happen throughout my interviews with the Whites of Beaumont as did the other two places I've been.

The first person I talked with in Beaumont was Mr. George D. Switzer, who has been serving as, Veterans Counselor for Veterans of this area with his office in the City Hall. Incidentally, this happens to be my second time talking with Mr. Switzer. Mr. Switzer's secretary, after stating my mission to her, told me to go right in. I went in and told Mr. Switzer my purpose for coming back to his office. He offered me a seat and we proceeded to talk about Veterans and their problems. While discussing on-the-job training I asked Mr. Switzer if he thought it would be possible to get some of the Veterans in some of the industries such as the Magnolia Refinery, Beaumont Iron Works, Oil City Brass and others as trainees in connection with our on-the-job training program. Said Mr. Switzer to me, " you are interested in the promotions of your people aren't you? " My reply to this question was, " yes, sir. " Said Mr. Switzer again, " then, I think you are going to find yourself running up against a brick-wall because, I don't think you'll be able to get the Negro Veterans in these industries as trainee welders, riggers, electricians, or even mechanic helpers particularly in the White businesses, so I would suggest, since you have talked with me twice and you impress me as being a very intelligent lad, to concentrate on your Negro business as places for placing Negro Veterans as trainees." Mr. Switzer continued by saying, " this is my version on what you want to do which is based on the present situation as it is and you know that I didn't cause it nor did you cause it, but because it is as it is we must face it realistically."

Mr. Switzer, after expressing himself as stated in the above paragraph, got up out of his chair walked to the window and proceeded to talk. " Tatum, on second thought you are right for wanting to get some of the Negro Veterans in the various

industries as trainees because tomorrow's labor demand will be for skilled laborers and if your people aren't prepared I don't see how they will be able to survive unless they are taken care of by the government as many were back in 1929." "I'll tell you what you should do--you should go to the business establishments where such skills are being used and talk with them individually and see what kind of luck you'll have, for it might be that they will take a colored boy as a trainee." "When you do, come back and let me know how you came out." At the close of these remarks I got up and thanked him for his opinions and suggestions and he said to me, "come back and see me".

The second person I talked with was an old friend, a veteran and my last employer, Mr. H. Irving Rosenfield, owner of two of the most exclusive dress stores in Beaumont and Port Arthur respectively, and who is chairman of the employment committee of the Veterans United for Action. The Veterans United for Action is an organization whose membership is composed of all racial groups in Beaumont but whose officers are all white and as far as I know there isn't a Negro nor a Mexican serving on any of the five standing committees of the Veterans United for Action. Mr. Rosenfield, a brilliant and clever business man, while he may not be the most influential person in Beaumont, which may be due to his racial identity being Jewish, is however, one of the best liked men in Beaumont. His ideas and opinions from the standpoint of a man's progress in life seem to be more optimistic than any other white person I've ever met in Beaumont. His ideas relative to the progress of any one, regardless to his racial identity are made known to all persons he meets. Of course, being as clever as he is he is quite diplomatic when expressing his views. Not only is he optimistic but he is also altruistic and that has been shown in many ways particularly to Negroes who have sought his help from both a moral and financial angle.

During my talk with Mr. Rosenfield, in his office where I enjoyed sitting for more than an hour and a half, he like Mr. Switzer, made mention of the present conditions as they exist here and he too feels that the Negro veterans should be placed as trainees in industries according to their interests. At the present time he is, with the co-operation of his employment committee of the Veterans United for Action, getting jobs for both, Negro and white veterans and he is trying his best to place them according to their interests, abilities and capabilities.

The third person I met was Mr. J. M. Goodell, Supervisor of Veterans Training for this area, and whose name was given to me by Mr. Switzer. When I asked Mr. Goodell for about five minutes of his time he offered me a seat and we talked for fifteen minutes about on-the-job training for veterans. Mr. Goodell was formerly the man whose job it was to approve establishments for on-the-job training but recently he has been relieved of this job and is now supervisor of Veterans Training for the Beaumont Area. He told me that while he served as the approval man for the Veterans Administration that he approved two Negro businesses--one a shoe repair shop, which he said had five veterans and the Lincoln Business College, a Negro business college, which has 20 veterans. "Since it is no longer my job to approve businesses for on-the-job training let me give you the name of Mr. O. A. Williams, whose

office is located in the Land Office Building at Austin, Texas." "Also, said Mr. Goodell, "while making approvals for businesses I was able to get one colored veteran in a furniture repair shop as a trainee." "This just about covers everything that I was able to do while working in that capacity." I asked Mr. Goodell if he would, since he is supervisor of veterans training, speak to veterans about on-the-job training, on-the-farm training and education. To this request Mr. Goodell said, "why sure I'll be glad to and you may also count on Mr. Witt, our contact officer, who is out of the office now but just let us know about four days ahead of time and we both will come and talk to them as well as answer any questions they may want to ask."

My fourth visit was at the Texas Unemployment Office located at the corner of Orleans and Milam Streets. The Texas Unemployment Office is housed in a beautiful one-story white stucco building with the front entrance reading "White Entrance". In the building the space for whites seeking employment is about as large as the space in your office and about 50 chairs for persons entering the employment office. On the day I went to the unemployment office, standing at the back entrance, which reads "For Colored" and abo which entrance is about midway the building with the only means of reaching is by passing between the building and four garbage cans, was approximately 45 Negroe veterans and civilians looking for jobs. In the space, which is not as wide as a regular hallway, is four chairs for Negroes who go there seeking employment. Thus the number over four are left standing outside, sitting on garbage cans and cars belonging to the white personnel of the office.

After standing at the counter for thirty minutes I asked a gentleman sitting at a desk could I talk with him a few minutes. The man got up and came to the counter and said, "what do you want boy?" I showed him my letter and stated my purpose for entering the unemployment office. He paused for a few minutes and said, "wait, I'll let you talk to the supervisor". The gentleman went to the supervisor's desk and talked with him for ten minutes and they both came back to the counter where I was standing. The supervisor asked, "boy, what can I do for you?" I stated my mission to him and he said, "we have a man here who takes care of veterans problems and I'll get him to talk with you in a few minutes". I am still standing at the counter patiently waiting to talk with someone about the problems of the fifteen veterans outside who were wearing their discharge buttons and perhaps other who could be so identified as well as countless others who go there seeking employment. Finally, about 30 minutes longer, a gentleman, who seemed to be about 55, came to the counter and after telling him my purpose for coming to the unemployment office he pulled a swing door, which is the entrance to the other side of the counter, behind which sits more than 50 white interviewers, and offered me a seat. The gentleman, Mr. G. L. Nettles, Department Supervisor of Veterans seems to be a rather liberal minded person. While talking with him he asked to see my letter again, which I showed him. He got a pad and wrote my name, address and phone number and asked me the name of the person appearing on the letterhead under whom I am working. I gave him all the information he asked for and we proceeded to talk about the hundreds of veterans who are frequent visitors at the unemployment office. Mr. Nettles said that the

unemployment office had received any number of calls for men to work as porters, concrete rollers, yard boys and car washers but the greater per cent of the colored veterans refused to take these jobs. "I wish, said Mr. Nettles, "it would be possible that we could get some of the industries to take them as trainees, because we have offered them all that we possible could and I don't blame the fellows because the jobs we have are not paying enough, after their various deductions, transportation to and from work and other essentials, to enable them to realize any benefit in working from eight to ten hours per day." "That is why we have such a large number drawing their readjustment allowance." Mr. Nettles continued by saying, "If we can be of any service to you let us know and we will be too glad to assist in any way." I thanked him for having spent the time he did in talking with me and left for the County Court House.

At the Courthouse I entered the office of the County Agriculture Agent, who was standing in the office of his secretary when I went in. The secretary asked me if there was anything she could do for me. To her I said, "I would like to speak to Mr. J. M. Combs". Pointing to Mr. Combs she said, "this is Mr. Combs". I showed him my letter and explained my reason for coming to see him. Mr. Combs didnot say come into my office, neither did he ask me to have a seat in his stenographer's office so, I stood and began to talk about on-the-farm training. I asked Mr. Combs if he had received any applications from veterans requesting the on-the-farm training. To this question Mr. Combs replied, "no I haven't and truthfully speaking I don't know much about it--of course, I think it would be a fine thing whenever it does get started". Mr. John Gray, President of Lamar College and a Veteran, spoke to me about the on-the-farm training and he is more familiar with the program than I am so, I would suggest that you talk with him". No time during my conversation with Mr. Combs did he offer me a seat so, we bagan and ended standing. I thanked him and left with the thought expressed in the memorandum I received from you concerning the Tentative Outline of Training Veterans in Agriculture.

I went out to Lamar College but to my disappointment President Gray was away. But I am going back to see him and find out just what he has outlined for veterans in the on-the-farm training. Lamar College is a white institution located in the south end of the city. It is supported by both Negro and white tax payers but Negroes can't attend Lamar College.

Although Negroes can't go to Lamar College, which is partially supported by them through taxes, the Negro has shown that his education will not cease with a high school education, for he has gone out and built a business college in Beaumont to enable those who may not be financially able to go off to college to at least enjoy the benefits of a business training. It is around this college, Lincoln Business College, that has already been approved by the Veterans Administration, that I've been, with the co-operation of the officials, trying to get as many trades taught as are being demanded by veterans. Already, within less than two weeks we've added to the number of five veterans, who are on-the-job training as shoe repairmen, eight more which makes a

total of thirteen veterans taking shoe repairing at the Hopper's Shoe Shop located at 690 Trinity Street.

During the two days Mr. Twitty spent here giving me a general idea of the type of work I was to later do here in Texas, he left with the suggestion to me to make a trip to Lincoln Business College and find out the number of veterans attending school and their interests. This I did prior to making my trip to Atlanta and discovered that there were about thrity veterans whose interests were to become radio technicians. Thus the college became known for its business and radio school, but upon discovering that the interest of veterans began to vary as they have and will, it was suggested that shoe repairing become a new course offered by the college. The program for the trades works somewhat like that outlined in I-3 of the Tentative Outline of Training Veterans in Agriculture, dated March 18, 1946.

My interview with Mr. V. M. Johnson and Mr. E. S. M. Caston, President and Business Manager of the Lincoln Business College respectively was one in which more has been accomplished for the veterans since beginning my work here in Texas. Both men are fully in accord with the program I am attempting to get over in Texas. So interested in the welfare is Mr. Johnson until he offered me his car to use any time I need it. Because of the results we've had, Mr. Johnson has gone out and secured lumber and other building materials to build a building on the grounds of the Lincoln Business College to house the radio and shoe repairing schools. The foundation of the building, at this writing, is already in the process of being laid. It is the hope of myself and the officials of the Lincoln Business College that the college will become known all over the state as a business and trade school.

Dr. Mitchell, I don't know what your opinion is relative to the content of the above paragraphs with regard to the role I've played in getting something on foot for the veterans; however, I would like to say that I didn't play the major role but I served more or less as an atomic bomb for the move that has been made in the interest of the veterans. What I mean by serving as an atomic bomb is that I only made some suggestions outlined, and left the remainder to the discretion of the officials of Lincoln Business College to consider. As an employee of the Southern Regional Council, I am staying in the background to only set off suggestions and watch them burn with a bright and brilliant flame. Now that I've stated my actions to get something started I would appreciate your comments on the steps I have taken in this Veterans' Onward Movement.

The next person I met is an old acquaintance, long-time friend and one who is equally enthused over what I am attempting to do as some of the others I've met. He is a prominent Negro physician and civic leader in Beaumont. Dr. P. G. Byrd, aside from expressing his willingness to work to help the veterans, has left his office at 695 Forsythe Street to go with me around to some of the white businesses and get their consent to take at least one Negro veteran in as a trainee. All of the places have not been approved by the Veterans Administration but the boys are being placed while

. . .

the firms are pending approval of the V. A.

Dr. Byrd also holds an office in the Negro Goodwill Council, a civic organization whose objectives are closely allied with those of the Southern Regional Council.

I talked with another prominent Negro Doctor, Dr. L. L. Melton, a dentist and a very active man in civic affairs here. He perhaps, has taken more interest in civic affairs than any other Negro in Beaumont. Dr. Melton is Past Commander of the Dorie Miller Post #33A of the American Legion. This Post Commander has also expressed his willingness to do everything humanly possible for the veterans and this is the organization that will have Mr. Goodell and Mr. Witt present to talk with them at their next meeting on Wednesday night, June 20.

I haven't accomplished all that I want to in Beaumont but because a start has been made in what appears to me to be the right direction I am going to leave here for Silsbee, Texas, Friday.

Sincerely,

Jewel M. Tatum

Jewel M. Tatum

JMT:gew

Field agent

June 14, 1946

Mr. Jewel M. Tatum
2020 Cable Street
Houston, Texas

Dear Mr. Tatum:

A good friend of mine well informed about agriculture is Lewis Jones. He is colored and use to teach at Fisk. Present address is 2120 Hutchins St., Houston, Texas.

If you get to Houston it would pay you to look him up.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Field Agent

June 19, 1946

Mr. Jewel M. Tatum
2020 Cable Street
Beaumont, Texas

Dear Mr. Tatum:

I continue to be greatly pleased with your reports.

Such visits as you made to Stisbee and Kountze are almost certain to improve matters.

Do check back in each town later to find out just what happens.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Silsbee, Texas
June 13, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

I've spent the greatest portion of this week around Hardin County with most of my time spent in Silsbee and Kountze, Texas. Cities comprising the Hardin County area are for the most part saw mill towns with approximately a thousand veterans scattered throughout the county.

At Silsbee, Texas I talked with Lawyer F. W. Richardson whose attitude towards helping veterans seems to be a very favorable one. At the beginning of our conversation Attorney Richardson was inclined to believe that I was representing a communistic organization. Said Attorney Richardson, "I don't know anything about the Southern Regional Council other than what you've said and, if that is true, then, I as well as others here in Hardin County will be glad to cooperate with you in getting something done for the veterans." "If, however, your organization be some form of communistic party, then, you are going to find yourself getting run out of Hardin County." Tatum, continued Attorney Richardson, this is my home and I was reared up with a lot of the colored people here and I nor any other white person am not going to stand for somebody coming in here to run over the colored people of this county." As our conversation continued I finally began to succeed in winning Mr. Richardson's belief and confidence in the prupose of our organization.

Before leaving I asked him if Silsbee had a Veterans Contact Officer. "Yes, said he, "but his office is located in the Sheriff's office at Kountze, Texas." "Mr. Frank Mabry, like myself is a veteran and if you can sell him a bill of goods about your organization live you've done with me I am sure you can get his full cooperation as well as some of the other white and colored citizens in this county", said Mr. Richardson. "Why, continued Attorney Richardson, don't you talk with a few more people here in Silsbee before you leave for Kountze." We've got a fine colored man, J. C. Frazier, who is principal of the colored high school here and he's got a lot of influence with the veterans as most of them went to school under him." I thanked Lawyer Richardson and

left to see Professor Frazier.

When I met Professor Frazier, he expressed himself as being too glad that I had come to Silsbee in the interest of the veterans. He said that he and his wife have been talking to veterans every day about doing something other than being contented to sit around the beer parlors, but he says they seem to be well pleased and not interested in the opportunities offered them under the G. I. Bill of Rights. "Out of all the veterans I've met and talked with only one has gone to Kountze to see if he could get in school", said Professor Frazier. Mr. Tatum, said Mr. Frazier, "I think the boys would go for the opportunities offered them if they were organized and someone like yourself or the Veterans Officer at Kountze would talk to them." When he said that I told him that getting the Veterans Contact Officer to speak to groups of veterans was one of my jobs. He then suggested that I be present Friday night and he would have as many veterans of Hardin County present as possible. I told Mr. Frazier that I was going to Kountze to see Mr. Mabry, Veterans Contact Officer, and ask him if he would be present Friday night at the Silsbee Colored High School, where Professor Frazier said he would have the veterans meet. I thanked him and left for Kountze, the county seat of Hardin County.

When I arrived in Kountze which is nine miles from Silsbee I went to the Sheriff's Office and found no one in so, I came out and took a seat on the lawn between the jailhouse and courthouse. One of the gentlemen sitting in the window of the courthouse during a trial, looked dwon and saw me sitting on the lawn. Said he, "who do you want to see boy?" My answer was, "I would like to see Mr. Mabry." In a few minutes Mr. Mabry was out on the lawn extending his hand and saying, "I am Mr. Mabry." I told him my purpose ~~of~~ for coming to see him and he said, "let's go into my office. As we reached the steps of the jail house Mr. Mabry stood back and said, "go right in." I went in and he offered me a seat.

Before I could sit down Mr. Mabry pulled out a package of Chesterfields and offered me a cigarette. We both lit our cigarettes and talked about veterans problems. All during our conversation Mr. Mabry had a very pleasant expression on his face as if I had all the answers to his many problems. "Tatum, said Mr. Mabry, I am certainly glad you came to see me because I've been wondering what I am going to do for the colored veterans who want to go to school as well as want job training". Of course, continued he, "I haven't seen many of them and I don't know why because I am not a bit prejudiced towards any veteran regardless to his race." If he's a veteran "stated Mr. Mabry, then I 'll do anything for him but Tatum, the schoolsseems to be crowded and as for job training you can see that we don't have anything in this county but a few sawmills and service stations.

After this meeting and organization of veterans here in Hardin County I am going to Lufkin, Sour Lake and Jasper, Texas.

Yours very truly,

Jewel M. Tatum

JOHN W. SMITH

E. A. CROOMS

M. E. MORGAN

TYLER BARBER COLLEGE

AUTHORIZED AND RECOGNIZED BY THE STATE BOARD
OF BARBER EXAMINERS

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TYLER, TEXAS

2806 DOWLING STREET. PHONE BEACON 3-3485
HOUSTON, TEXAS

HOUSTON 4, TEXAS

H. M. MORGAN, PRESIDENT
OFFICE: TYLER, TEXAS

6 - 22 - 46.

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Director of Veteran Service
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Avenue
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

I left Silsbee, Texas for Sour Lake, Texas as mentioned in my last report but after I reached Sour Lake I was informed by my cousin that my mother had called and left word that Mr. W. B. Twitty was arriving in Beaumont so I left Sour Lake without making an interview in order to meet Mr. Twitty in Beaumont.

Mr. Twitty arrived in Beaumont last Monday and I spent Monday and Tuesday in Beaumont and Port Arthur showing Mr. Twitty what was being done and what our plans for Veterans are in these two cities.

I arrived here today and was to meet Mr. Twitty but he has gone to Dallas so I am staying here until I can find out what is being done for Veterans.

I went by the "Informer", a Negro Weekly, to see Mr. Carter Wesley but he's out of town and expected to be back in a few days however, I am going to make other contacts to see what is going on in Harris County for Veterans.

Very truly yours,

Jewel M. Tatum

Jewel M. Tatum

June 24, '46

Dear Mr. Tatum,

Your report of June 22 came in. I'm glad you are working Houston. Shall expect to hear at length from Twitty as to future plans for Texas.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

3519 Bremond Street
Houston 2, Texas
June 28, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

This week finds me going from person to person and from place to place in the Lone Star State's largest city, Houston. It ranks first in Texas in: population, dwelling units, wholesale sales, utility connections, gainful employment, bank deposits, school enrollment, home construction and countless other things. It is the center of the fertile Texas Gulf Coast Section, which has more than 295,389 farms with an annual production exceeding $300,000,000.

Houston is the world's leading spot cotton market and terminal. It has a never failing supply of natural gas, brought into the city through six major pipe lines tapping large gas fields located in areas in several counties near Houston. Houston is located on the upper Gulf Coastal prairies at the head of the Galveston Bay. The city was founded August 30, 1836 and incorporated September 28, 1839. It was one of the first capitals of the Republic of Texas and named after General Sam Houston, Commander of the Texas Army in the struggle for independence, first president of the Republic. The first railway operated and the first newspaper published in Texas started here in Houston. Located near Houston is the San Jacinto Battlefield where the sixteenth decisive battle in the world's history was fought. From a log-cabin frontier town on a sleepy bayou, it has grown to its present position of industrial leadership in the South.

Houston and its surrounding area have grown rapidly. Each year many new homes, office buildings and industrial plants are added to the city, and today it is the largest in the south. Every effort has been made to keep the cultural growth of the city apace with its industrial growth. Houston today is proud of its record and is a good place in which to live and work. Houston is a well planned and governed municipality and its citizens are progressive and forward thinking. A city with a romantic past; a bustling city alive to modern comforts and commercial needs, Houston is the metropolis of the southwest.

From an educational point of view Houston is fastly surpassing Austin, the state capital, as the educational center of the state. Plans for a great center of medical education, research and treatment have been prepared and construction of the first of the 21 buildings planned for the 163 acre center will begin soon. The

The city has been selected as the site for a Negro University which resulted from the state supreme court's decision in the Hermon Sweatt vs The University of Texas case. Aside from the approval of the top educational leaders for Houston to be the site of the Negro University, Houston has a liberal arts college, a business college and three trade schools.

At the "Informer" office located at 2418 Leeland, where I was to meet Mr. Twitty, I met and talked with Mr. M. A. Bland, Comptroller for "The Informer". As a newcomer to the city of Houston, Mr. Bland is not too well acquainted with Houston's rank and file Negro and white leadership and Mr. Carter Wesley, third vice-president of the Southern Regional Council, was and yet is out of town so, with the able assistance of the staff of workers at the Informer office I was able to get off to a fair start in making necessary interviews so as to ascertain an overall picture of what is being accomplished for veterans. Mr. Bland, who is fully in accord with the purpose of the council, told me that he is willing to assist in any way possible for the veterans cause. While discussing on-the-job training he told me that the Informer has three veterans working as trainees in the plant and the staff is contemplating taking in a few more veterans as trainees on-the-job.

Leaving the Informer office in search of an old friend who knows Houston and the right people and who was formerly with the Informer for many years as sports editor, I stumbled blindly into the office of the only Negro County Veterans Service Officer in the entire state of Texas. To me, this was a happy find for Mr. Tom Sanders, Assistant County Service Officer, whose office is located in the Odd Fellows Building at 618 Prairie Street in downtown Houston, is the first Negro it has been my privilege to meet who is serving Negro veterans. He is also the first veterans service officer I've seen give individual attention to each veteran and his problems. I spent more than four hours in Mr. Sanders' office listening and observing his work with three veterans who were sitting in his office when I entered. Mr. Sanders makes the veteran feel and know that his interest is not in the pay envelope he gets for his work, but his happiness is to render the veterans a valuable service.

After the veteran tells his story to Mr. Sanders he isn't told as I've heard many a service officer tell veterans "well, you come back in a few days and I'll see what I can do for you", but Mr. Sanders sits down at his typewriter and types a letter for the veteran, gives him an addressed envelope and tells him to drop the letter in the box. If Mr. Sanders' assistance to the veterans does not require the writing of a letter to the V. A. he will pick up his receiver and call and ask if the party will help the veteran. This means that the veteran who enters Mr. Sanders' office must have a little patience but he can leave knowing that someone has actually helped or put forth some effort to help him with his problem. Says Mr. Sanders to the veteran after this has been done, "come back and let me know the answer you receive from this letter and if you donot get complete satisfaction I will follow it up along with you until we do get some satisfactory results".

To know that Houston has a Negro County Service Officer would lead one to believe that all is well with veterans in Houston--but such is not necessarily true of this metropolis. Mr. Sanders informed me that the on-the-job training program is partially set up but it is not like it should be considering the many industries and the size of Houston. He said that Negro business establishments are not adequate enough to give the veterans the kind of training they will need in later life to be classed with skilled laborers. This statement was made he said because of the inferior equipment found in Negro businesses. "In comparison, he said, "the ratio of Negroes to white who are in industries and other businesses as trainees is 100::1. I am sure, with the suggestion you just made of Negroes finding sympathetic white businesses that will take at least one veteran, we will be able to get more Negroes in the on-the job training program." "I do my best to help them as you can see, but here in the south we are limited to a degree and it is going to take a long drawn out fight and struggle to reach our intended goal."

Perhaps the most interesting thing I have experienced was learning of the interest of a woman in the welfare of veterans. Mrs. Claire Grigsby, formerly director of the Veterans Service Center, which no longer exists, has been working with the Selective Service Board of Houston ever since its beginning. When men began to be discharged from the service and the need of advice became apparent--to assist veterans in readjusting themselves to civilian life--it was Mrs. Grigsby, through her indefatigable efforts, who was instrumental in setting up a Veterans Service Center for Negroes. The center has been closed because of the opposition of that faction of Houston's Negro leadership that was opposed to the separate center for veterans. These Negroes who advocated the closing of the center, which was operated by Negroes and giving a far better service to the Negro veterans of Houston than the other two centers combined, had as their reason the hope of putting Negro counselors in the downtown office as well as at the Regional Office along with whites, but the efforts of the Negroes, who succeeded in closing the center operated by Negroes, have until this day been in vain.

In spite of Mrs. Grigsby being defeated in her efforts to render service to the veterans of Houston, she has not taken a defeated attitude but has been giving the same service without pay to veterans who go to her. Today Mrs. Grigsby is employed by the Houston Negro Chamber of Commerce as Supervisor of Housing for Veterans. Mrs. Grigsby stated that during the life of the Veterans Service Center for Negroes, the center received from 300 to 900 veterans per month. Said Mrs. Grigsby, "the Negro veteran needs personal attention and he is not going to get it at the white center. If I weren't busy I would take you to town so you can see for yourself that the Negro veterans don't go to the down town center because they don't get the attention they need." Since serving as Supervisor of Housing for veterans with the Negro Chamber of Commerce we had a site approved for veterans and it is to be completed within the next 60 days. The housing site will accommodate 160 family units and will be erected by the F P H A, a branch of the government. The selection of this site and with the final negotiations completed, War Veterans will finally find the answer to the housing problem.

At Houston college for Negroes, where I met an old time friend, former instructor of mine and now Veterans Counselor at the college, I had an interesting conversation with Professor Charles W. Deslandes. Professor Deslandes informed me that the extent to which veterans are enrolling in the Houston College has caused them to regretfully turn hundreds of veterans away because they cannot accommodate all who wish to enter Houston College. The college, although it is not as old as many of the Negro colleges in Texas, is beyond a shadow of a doubt the most progressive one in Texas. It leads all others in making accommodations for veterans. Too, it offers more trade courses than the state school--Prairie View University. Some of the trades taught at Houston College are: Auto-Body & Fender Work, painting, tailoring, cleaning and pressing, cabinet-making, shoe-repairing, welding, radio, machine shop, and electrical appliances. The total number of veterans enrolled in Houston College's trade and liberal arts schools is 1107. Mr. Deslandes says that more trades will be offered as soon as instructors are available. Plans are now under way to erect more domitories and shop buildings to accommodate the veterans who have been trying to get in school.

My visit Saturday morning was at the Tyler Barber College where I met Mrs. N. G. Oakmon, manager, who carried me all over the college and showed me the outline of courses required and work veterans must do before they finish the barbering trade. The Tyler Barber College has a veterans enrollment of 101. I explained to Mrs. Oakmon my job throughout Texas as I did to the others and she, like the others, expressed herself as being too glad to work with them in seeking places for on-the-job training for the veterans of Houston.

Just to know that Houston is as large as it is, with a population of more than six hundred thousand, would lead one to believe that Negro veterans donot face a problem as different, with respect to the on-the-job training, as one would expect of an area much smaller than that of Houston, but it is here as elsewhere in Texas. Houston's Negro population is 135,000 and of this number more than 1200 veterans are walking the streets daily with their only source of income being the $20 per week readjustment allowance.

Today, for the third time, I read the paragraph taken from Mr. Gunter's report from Chattanooga, Tennessee, in which he said in part, "I have found that twenty dollars weekly readjustment allotment is still blocking job training". To this statement and the remainder of the paragraph, found in the memorandum received from your office, dated June 5, 1946, I donot fully agree because, through my travels and talks with veterans here in Texas, I have come to the conclusion that veterans who are not in school, working at their old jobs and who are getting the readjustment allowance, want to get in on the on-the-job training. Having surveyed the labor situation, though not in full, I am inclined to believe that our greatest block is not allowance but discrimination against Negroes by labor unions and anti-Negro white businesses. In considering the present cost of living the veteran, who is not in some school or back on his old job, must have some source of income until the bolted door of job training is opened to him.

I discovered that a number of them, in the vernacular of the average vet, are members of the "Twenty-week Club"--while drawing their compensation they are looking for jobs and trying to get apprenticeship training in some business or industry.

Talking with Mr. C. W. Rice, Editor-Manager of "The Negro Labor News", published weekly in Houston, I learned that in one plant alone, the Demon Foundry, a blast, worst in Houston's Negro Labor History, occurred only a few weeks ago. Prior to the awful blow there were two hundred and fifty Negroes employed at the Dedmon Foundry as skilled laborers, but today, the two hundred and fifty Negro welders, electricians and other skilled laborers have been replaced by whites. The Negroes, while working in skilled trades didnot receive the pay of a skilled laborer but, were paid from forty to sixty per cent less than the skilled labor rate for the work they were doing. The blow came when the C. I. O. Labor Union, which reserves the right to bargain, went into the Dedmon Foundry with its scale rate of pay for skilled laborers. It was then that the management of the foundry, whose cost of labor was cheap because Negroes consented to work for forty and sixty per cent less, that the management turned away from the plant the two hundred and fifty Negro skilled laborers. The plant gave as a reason for letting the Negroes out--inefficiency. Said management: "Negroes are not capable of doing skilled work." But, prior to bargaining with the C. I. O. the Negroes were as competent as any other skilled worker anywhere. Veterans who were among this number fired from the plant began to apply for their readjustment allowance as it was their only means of sustance until the discrepancy is corrected and they can again work at the foundry as skilled laborers. Thus you can see why I disagree with Mr. Gunter's statement.

The Negro Labor News has three veterans in the shop on job training and the length of training for these men is eighteen months. Mr. Rice stated that the men receive the same scale wage as whites who are on the job training in the white newspaper plants. "Here in Houston, said Mr. Rice, there are Negro veterans walking around who can fix any machinery in this shop but, if something goes wrong with any of my equipment, I must get some white man to do the job that could be done by a skilled veteran but, because of union restrictions I must get a white man and pay him union rates." With the existence of situations like this can we turthfully say, where veterans are qualified to do the job and can't because of limitations placed upon them by unions, that the twenty-dollar weekly allowance is blocking job training? My answer to this most pertinent question is in the negative--no! emphatically no! the twenty-dollar weekly allowance <u>is not a hindrance</u> to job training but <u>a relief</u> to the veteran's <u>economic problem</u>.

I made five trips to see labor's magnet, Mr. R. R. Grovey, and finally got a chance to talk at length with him. Mr. R. R. Grovey, a Negro resident of Houston for many years, is Staff Representative of the United Steel Workers Union of the C. I. O. His sphere of influence is nodoubt greater than many a white or Negro labor leader's throughout the entire south. I learned, while talking with Mr. Grovey, that the A. F. of L. and C. I. O. are beginning to

recognize Negroes in all phases of their unions. He stated that the reason Negroes have been so long entering unions is because, "they have always had the mistaken idea that they were benefited by unions without being fully recognized by unions as members. As Staff Representative of the United Steel Workers Union it is Mr. Grovey's responsibility to negotiate agreements with management of industry. In discussing on-the-job training I told him the disadvantages we have encountered at the hands of unions and it appeared that Negro veterans, who wanted to work, even as apprentices, would forever walk the streets with the desire and not have the opportunity at apprenticeship training. To this Mr. Grovey said, "Mr. Tatum, don't worry, for within a few weeks every industry that has bargained with either one of the labor unions will have to accept Negro veterans who apply for apprenticeship training. When I go in the office of management and sit across the table to negotiate a contract in which I as Staff Representative, am bargaining with management, you can rest assured that the interest of all men, Negro and white, is considered in our bargain with management." When Mr. Grovey made this statement I felt like the nation felt on V-J Day. Yes, with the bolted doors of unions opened to Negroes we can hope for a bright future in labor. I expressed to Mr. Grovey how I felt about his statement and he continued by saying, "but, we've got a job of making the Negro union conscious for this has been a long hard fight. Today, the Negro has an opportunity he's never had in the history of labor unions and he must make unions know he is worthy and can be depended upon as a union man. We were able to bargain with the Hughes Tool, Sheiffield Steel and Texas Electric Companies and today, Negroes are working as skilled laborers in these three plants. At the present we are ironing out discrepancies at the Dedmon Foundry and in a few weeks this foundry will no longer operate as it has been. Before we went into the Dedmon Foundry I stood at the gate and pleaded with Negro and white veterans not to go to work at the wage rate the foundry was paying. But, both Negroes and white veterans alike worked side by side as skilled laborers for a wage less than that of union rates". Here again Mr. Gunter's statement is a logical fallacy for it has been demonstrated by both, Negro and white veterans that they desire to work inspite of the low wage rates they receive.

Another well known Negro I talked with here in Houston was Mr. Samuel B. Byars, owner-manager of the Byars Auto and Welding Shop located at 1013 West Dallas Street here in Houston. My talk with Mr. Byars was one which served to enlighten me on the works of the George Antwine Post 52A of the American Legion which many veterans of World War II denounced because of the influence of veterans of World War I predominating. Mr. Byars has done more than any one single man in all of Houston for the advancement of his people. At the outbreak of the war he was director of vocational education at the Wall-Hammond Trade School, which today has more than four veterans taking various trades. It was during the nation's cry for skilled laborers that Mr. Byars left the trade school and taught more than two thousand Negroes skilled trades and they went to work in Houston as skilled laborers during the war to help out in the emergency. Mr. Byars is Rehabilitation Officer of the

?cmu.

district and local American Legion Chairman of both labor and Veterans Affairs Committees of the local N. A. A. C. P. One of the greatest accomplishments of the George Antwine Post #52A, according to Mr. Byars, was the advocating of the appointment of Mr. Tom Sanders, Negro, as assistant veterans county officer for Harris County. "The Legion, said Mr. Byars, is also attempting, with the cooperation of the white legion post, to get Negroes employed as interviewers in the Veterans Center down town. Since our fight started we haven't received an answer but will continue until Negroes are working as counselors in the downtown center. At the present Mr. Byars has two veterans on-the-job training in his shop and both are getting the wage rate of an apprentice. In discussing on-the-job training Mr. Byars, like a few others, referred to the Negro business as not being many in number as well as not having the volume of business or equipment with which to train a man to become as efficient as he should be in later life. When he said this I suggested that his labor committee of the N.A. A. C. P. could serve a very useful purpose if they would go out and seek the sympathetic white businesses and get them to take as many Negro veterans as possible. Mr. Byars thought this a wise suggestion and said he would be glad to have his committee do it.

During my moving about in the big city of Houston I was constantly in search for an organization of World War II Veterans but my search was to no avail. Each veteran with whom I talked didnot know why there was not an organization of World War II Veterans and as I would ask them why they wouldn't join the local chapter of the American Legion they seemed to frown on it because of the veterans of World War I. However, there are quite a few veterans of the last war who are members of the George Antwine Post and I am sure as they finally wake up and see the accomplishments of the Legion they too will join. I attempted to make them realize the value of belonging to some veterans' organization and if they didn't wish to join the legion to organize the veterans of World War II and do something for themselves.

Out of all my opposition to Mr. Gunter's statement I am not an advocate of the readjustment allowance but, where we are fighting to unlock bolted doors, move mountains, crush unions, tare down walls, swim across oceans--let them get it--they too must live.

Sincerely,

Jewel M. Tatum

Jewel M. Tatum

P. S Please enclose a copy of the June issue of "New South". Thanks.

J M T

Vets Anxious to Receive Training

In the first monthly report of the Veterans Administration office in Houston, released today for the period ending May 31, it was revealed that 23,462 World War II veterans of the 32-county area of Southeast Texas, of which Liberty County is a part, have applied for certificates of eligibility for education and training.

In this region, 5546 veterans are in schools in the G.I. Bill of Rights benefits, with an additional 2106 in training on the job. During May these two groups received 5147 subsistence payments, at an estimated average of $80 each. Training of 996 veterans was interrupted or discontinued during May.

The report also revealed that 734 veterans, disabled in the service, are now in training. Subsistence payments were made to 809 disabled veterans at an average amount of $90 each during this same month. Disability pensions or compensation to veterans and their beneficiaries in the Houston region now total 19,466 running awards, the report also showed.

New applications for pension or compensation totaling 3486 were received at the Houston office during May. The VA Medical Division at Houston reports 79 cases were completed during May and another 762 cases have been scheduled for completion in the near future with the increased cooperation of local medical talent.

At the present time, shortage of available hospital beds is causing cases to be delayed in admission to hospitals, but in no instance has any emergency case of a veteran been delayed even one day, the regional V.A. manager said recently.

The hospital situation is expected to be relieved to a considerable extent when the Navy Hospital at Houston is opened and when beds allocated to the Houston region are made available at McCloskey Hospital, Temple.

From
The Vindicator of Liberty, Texas
June 29, 1945

Field Agent

July 2, 1946

MEMORANDUM TO: Jewel N. Tatum
FROM: George S. Mitchell

I need some information about training programs for Negro veterans. Please try to get it back to me by Monday, July 8th. Send it by wire if you have to.

What I want is your best guess as to the number of white veterans receiving respectively job training, institutional training, and farm training, and the number of Negro veterans receiving each, as of the end of June '46, in Texas.

1003 East 30th Street
Houston, Texas
July 3, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

I suppose I should term this as a continuation of my report on Houston as a portion of it is about this great metropolis.

Prior to coming to Houston "grand rumor" had it that the Veterans Administration was to undergo a drastic change in its administration here in Texas as well as throughout the entire country. Rumor said that the new set-up would include Negro personnel in cities where the Negroes constituted ten per cent of the population. Realizing that the source of this information was not authentic I was determined to gather all facts regarding the administration of the new set-up of the Veterans Administration. That I have been seeking here in Houston as it is one of Texas' five Regional Offices.

Early Monday morning I went out to the Regional Office of the Veterans Administration where I was certain to get the correct facts concerning the new set-up. I went into the office and at the spacious entrance sits a clerk at the information desk who asked me if she could help me. I showed her my card and asked to see Mr. Percivelle who is Assistant Director of the Regional Office. The clerk took my name, gave me a slip and told me to step inside and give the slip and card to the man sitting at the first desk. The gentleman, Mr. James D. Campbell, a very young intelligent fellow asked me to take a seat and asked just what he could do for me. I showed him my letter and card and told him that I wanted to speak to Mr. Percivelle. He then got up and went to a closed office and came back. Said he, "Mr. Tatum, I am sorry but Mr. Percivelle is out of town ~~but~~ however Mr. Robert J. Blakey, Assistant Chief of the Rehabilitation and Vocational Training for the Regional Office of the Veterans Administration is in would you like to talk with him. "I would be glad to", said I. "Then, follow me", said Mr. Campbell. I got up and followed Mr. Campbell to the office of Mr. Blakey.

Mr. Blakey was sitting in his office with two secretaries and when we walked in the three looked up and Mr. Campbell said, "Mr. Blakey, this is Mr. Tatum from the Southern Regional Council".

Mr. Blakey got up extending his hand and said "how are you Mr. Tatum, will you have a seat"? To him I said, "thank you Mr. Blakey", and took a seat. I then, proceeded to make Mr. Blakey know my reason for coming to the Regional Office which serves thirty-two counties throughout Texas.

In my report last week I made reference to the desire of Houston's Negro Leadership to bring pressure against the Regional Office to accept Negroes as consultants in both the Regional and Downtown offices. According to the official inside story regarding this matter I am inclined to believe that the wishes of Houston's Negro Leadership, in getting Negroes in the two offices will be another of the many things Negroes throughout the South will have to fight from the Veterans Administration Office in Washington. Prior to the new set-up the strength of the Regional Office's personnel was 360 and as plans were being made, to make the changes that have been made since May 1, announcements were published in the daily papers of Texas that the Regional Office needed 200 more persons to maintain a maximum of efficiency in its administration. When the announcement appeared in the papers more than 150 qualified Negro veterans applied for jobs in the Regional Office and when the 200 persons were added to the staff of the office, which made a total of 560 persons employed at the Regional Office in Houston, not a one of the more than 150 qualified Negro Veterans received employment. I told Mr. Blakey that I had heard it rumored throughout places I had been that when the new set-up went into effect that Negroes qualified for jobs as consultants, contact representatives, clerks, etc., would be represented in the Regional Office as well as in sub-branches over the state. Mr. Blakey's reply to this statement was given in a round about way, which indicated that he was evading the issue. With notice of his evasion I refused to be dogmatic and ask for a specific answer, with a feeling that the Negro Leadership of Houston would continue its struggle to get Negroes in and also with a feeling that such question might not have met your approval for a field agent of the council, but let it pass as he didn't give a direct answer. However, he did say that "the Regional Office has been requested by Washington to set up a guidance center staffed by Negroes at Prairie View College but we haven't got around to it yet. We have received several applications from a number of Negroes and if you wish to apply for the job at Prairie View I'll give you an application blank and you mail it to this office with "attention Mr. Blakey" on it and when applicants are being considered I'll keep you in mind providing you meet all qualifications because we don't intend to be partial to an applicant". He then asked one of the secretaries for an application blank and handed it to me and I thanked him for it and proceeded with my interview.

As our conversation got on the way I told him of the many whites and Negroes who are qualified to do all sorts of work from mechanic's helper to bank-teller and that throughout my travels in Texas I've found that Negro Veterans for the most part were raked over the coals, particularly when it comes to apprenticeship training. "To the statement you've just made, said Mr. Blakey, I am sure you are right because this has been the findings of our Contact Representatives but, Mr. Tatum, you know, I am sure, that

the Veterans Administration does not make placements for apprenticeship training unless the veteran comes under Public Law 16 Part 7, nor any other type of employment. The employment angle is left up entirely to the place of employment and the veteran. Of course, as you know, the United States Employment service makes placements as well as seeks to place the applicant where he is best fitted, so the situation as you've found it is not the fault of the Veterans Administration." I then asked Mr. Blakey if he could give me a break-down of Negro and white veterans on-the-job training, on-the-farm training and in school. In answering this question Mr. Blakey said, "we don't have a break-down according to races and to do that would take a few days as we would have to check every record to ascertain which ones are white and which are colored. If you'll go out to Houston College and write Prairie View you could get the number in school but for farm or job training I suppose you have to get that here and it will take quite some time to get that for you". Here I begin bringing our conversation to a close and he got up, shook hands and said he was glad that I had come by and if the Regional Office could be of any more assistance to not hesitate calling upon them. I thanked him and left.

July 2

Today I talked with Mr. Arthur J. Bundage, Negro County Agriculture Agent for Harris County. Mr. Bundage stated while discussing farm training, that they were just getting started on the program and have received more than 50 applications for farm training. Said Mr. Bundage, "we are starting our first class next week with twenty-five veterans and a vocational agricultural teacher and I plan to set up more schools throughout the county for those veterans who are interested in farm training. We also have a few who have applied for loans and they too will get individual attention from me and the vocational agricultural instructor in farming and management of their farms".

Liberty, Texas, July 3, 1946

I arrived in Liberty, Texas at 1:30 P. M. and went in search of the Veterans Contact Representative. Leaving the Greyhound Bus Station I saw a well dressed Negro, whose appearance looked like a preacher, and he turned out to be just that. I saw him enter a grain store so I walked up to the car he had just got out of and waited until he returned. When he returned I gave him my card and introduced myself to him. Said he, "I am Rev. W. C. F. Jones." Rev. Jones is District Missionary of the Trinity Valley Association of Texas and appears to have quite a bit of interest in veterans. In discussing veterans he said, "we have a large number of veterans here and I've been trying to get them to organize a veterans club of some kind so they can interest themselves in the benefits accorded them under the G. I. Bill of Rights". I asked Rev. Jones if he had had any luck in getting the vets lined up. "Well, said he, "not much but I am sure they will get together now because we just received in this county a

Negro Agricultural Agent whose interest in veterans seems to be the same as mine." I suggested to him that it would be a fine thing if he and the Negro Agricultural Agent, along with several others, would work as a committee and stay in behind the veterans as well as see that they get or rather take advantage of today's opportunities. "Mr. Tatum, said Rev. Jones, that is a good suggestion and I am going to talk with Mr. E. A. Palmer, our agricultural agent, Professor Armstrong and others so we can do as you have suggested."

Rev. Jones asked if I wanted to go and see Mr. Palmer and I told him I would be too glad to talk with him so, he carried me to the county courthouse where Mr. Palmer's office is located and to my disappointment Mr. Palmer was out of town. I then inquired for the Veterans Contact Representative. I was informed that his office was on the third floor of the same building. I thanked the Rev. Jones and went to the third floor to see the veterans contact representative. When I reached his office it was locked and I went across the hall to the Local Draft Board to ask whether or not the veterans representative would be back. The lady in the Draft Board's office said, "I saw him drive up a few minutes ago and get out of his car with an arm full of papers. I am sure he'll be up in a few minutes. As she was talking I heard someone coming up the steps so I thanked her and waited in the front of the contact representative's door anticipating his arrival. In a few minutes he walked up with both arms full, smiling and said, "how are you?". He put his papers on the desk and still smiling with his hand extended said, "Speer". I shook hands with him and said, "Tatum". Continued he, "have a seat while I make this room a little cooler for it certainly is warm and with the fan off and the windows closed makes it miserable." Taking his seat behind his desk he asked, "now, what can I do for you?" I gave him my card, showed him my letter and explained my job throughout Texas.

As our conversation about veterans got on the way and particularly about job training, Mr. Speer in his soft voice said, "Tatum, I think you are doing a fine thing in attempting to get job training going for the colored veterans because that is something they really need. You know what? I've been trying to get the whites around here to take a Negro veteran but I can't seem to get them interested in colored boys. I have worked all my life for the uplifting of all boys regardless to race and I'll continue to do it. If you want to know something--I am the only Republican in Liberty County and I suppose I am the most disliked person but I don't care. Of course, I don't want what I am telling you to be published for I don't like publicity, nevertheless I am a straight shooter when it comes to the right thing. I don't have any prejudice as many of these people around here have and I'll do anything I can for any of the boys whether they be white or colored." I made mention of the suggestion I had made to Rev. Jones and he said, "good I'll be glad to work with them and do my best to get something accomplished. Recently we got a colored agricultural agent, a Mr. Palmer and you talking about somebody glad that he's here--its me because the colored boys here really want farm training as well as job training but we are not going to have the hindrances in farm training as we have for job training and it certainly is going to help out a lot". I told

him that I had just left Mr. Palmer's office but he was out of town and I wondered if he had any figures of the men who were taking advantage of the farm training program. "No, said he, I can't give you the exact number but Mr. Palmer will be in tomorrow and he can give you all details you may need about the farm training program." When I got ready to leave Mr. Speer got up and, still smiling, shook my hand and said he was glad I had come by and I in turn told him I was glad to have the opportunity to talk with him. I also expressed to him my appreciation for the interest he has in all veterans and hope he would get with Mr. Palmer, Rev. Jones and others and round the veterans up and arouse their interest. Before leaving Mr. Frank S. Speer told me that "The Liberty Vindicator, a weekly publication, ran an article on a meeting that was held in which was discussed vocational schools for veterans. I went by the office of "The Liberty Vindicator" and purchased a copy and am enclosing clippings from same.

I left the office of "The Liberty Vindicator" and went to the home of Professor C. G. Armstrong, principal of Liberty Training High School. Mrs. Armstrong informed me that Professor Armstrong was out of town. Since she is a teacher at the Liberty Training High School, I told her that I would like to talk with her and she could pass the information to her husband when he returned. She said that she didnot know any too much about the veterans but her husband has quite a bit of interest in them and she'll be too glad to work with him in doing something constructive for the veterans of Liberty County. After talking with her for forty minutes in which I covered in general what I am doing as well as what opportunities the veterans have, I told her that I was coming back to Liberty to see her husband and also Mr. Palmer along with the others I met while in Liberty.

Tri-Cities--Baytown, Pell and Goose Creek, Texas, July 5, 6, 1946

The population of the Tri-Cities, Baytown, Pelly and Goose Creek, Texas, is approximately 35,000. The chief industry is the Humble Refinery located about equi-distance from the three towns. The majority of the people living in these cities are employed at the Humble Refinery. The population of the Negroes of the Tri-Cities is little over three thousand and most of them, too, are employed at the Humble Refinery. They are employed as elswhere in Texas--as common laborers in spite of the fact that there are countless numbers of veterans who learned skilled trades while in the service and some finished trade schools other places prior to being inducted into the service.

At Goose Creek I talked with Mr. Rayborn Johnson, Veterans Contact Representative for the Tri-Cities. We talked about job training and here again Negro boys are not being accepted by industry for apprenticeship training. In discussing education Mr. Johnson said, "there are a number of them asking for letters of eligibility to go to school but I can't give you the number as we don't keep any records here. As fast as they come in we send all information on each veteran to the Regional Office in Houston. Here we only make out cards and we don't indicate on them whether the

veteran is white or colored. You may be able to get the number of veterans on the job training and farm training and in school from our Regional Office, but even there I don't think you can get a break-down as to races unless they go through every record to determine if or not the veteran is colored or white.

I asked Mr. Johnson if he had talked with the veterans of the Tri-Cities as a group and he said, he had talked with the white veterans but never has received a call from the colored if they've got an organization. When he made this statement I asked him if he could direct me to the high school principal. He picked up the receiver and called the school and told Professor E. A. Archia that I was in the city and would like to talk with him. After hanging up the receiver he said, "when you talk with Professor Archia ask him if the colored veterans have an organization and tell him to let me know for I'll be glad to talk to them as well as work with them in any way". I promised him I would find out and ask Professor Archia to let him know, thanked him and left for the George Washington Carver High School.

When I arrived at the George Washington Carver High School Professor E. A. Archia was busy working in his office. When I knocked on his office door he said, "come in". I went in and we introduced ourselves to each other and began to talk about the veterans. Mr. Archia said that the veterans had an organization about a month ago which met at the school but they don't seem to meet anymore. "I think, said he, that a number of them are away on vacations and in school or getting ready to go to school. Whatever the reason is I don't know but I am going to find out and give them a little push so they can get started again." In talking about job training he said, "Mr. Tatum, we've got a number of veterans at the Humble Refinery who can do all sorts of work but you know what they are doing? They are the common labor gang at the refinery". He then asked me "what can be done in order that the boys might work as skilled laborers?" I asked him to let me use his typewriter a minute and I typed the information from your letter in which you requested me to get the names of veterans seeking apprenticeship training, unions name and officials who Negro veterans and sympathetic industries that would take them if it were not for unions. When I gave him this I told him to get the veterans reorganized and find out the information and I would be back and get it as well as seek some of the officials. Since the Veterans Contact Representative didnot keep any records I would go back to Houston and ask that I be permitted to go through the files and find out the names of the veterans who have applied for apprenticeship training. This however will take two weeks or more as the Regional Office does not keep the records according to races and that is the reason I asked Professor Archia to get the information when the veterans reorganize and I would come back and see the officials myself.

Sincerely,

Jewel M. Tatum

Jewel M. Tatum

Encl -3

Field agent

July 9, 1946

Mr. Jewel M. Tatum
20 20 Cable Street
Beaumont, Texas

Dear Mr. Tatum:

I have your letter of June 28th.

I am in something of a hurry to get off on a trip and shan't do more than tell you I got it.

You make a powerful argument for the availability of the twenty dollars a week.

On page six you said that Wall-Hammond Trade School in Houston has "more than four veterans taking various trades". Do you mean four hundred?

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

P. S. The June issue of the NEW SOUTH has been delayed. We will send you a copy as soon as it is off the press.

Jasper, Texas
July 12, 1946.

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

Jasper, Texas, where I spent a portion of this week, is located in the heart of the timber belt in east Texas and is the county seat of the county which bears the same name. Being one of the original counties in Texas, Jasper has a rich heritage.

This city is known principally for its timber industry, having many acres of timber land, pine and all types of hardwood, with a number of sawmills, basket factory, crate factory, shingle and stone mill, and is the shipping point for timber products such as poles, pulpwood and ties. Other sources of revenue are derived from farming and cattle raising. Its principal crops are cotton, corn, potatoes, peanuts and vegetables. Aside from these, exploration for oil is now in progress in this area and there are abundant deposits of iron ore, lignite and brick clay in the county.

The climate in Jasper is very favorable for working conditions and general comfort. Also to be found in this county are many lakes and clear water streams which makes fishing a favorite pastime for the citizens of Jasper County.

I arrived in Jasper Wednesday morning and was met instantly by two white taxi drivers. Usually, upon arriving in a city, I like to stand around the station awhile looking, listening and observing so as to get some idea of the type of personalities I am to meet. So, after being approached by the cab drivers I said to them "wait a few minutes until I find out just where I am to go." Upon listening, looking and observing for several moments, I told the drivers that I wanted to go the home of the colored high school principal. They were both very nice. One opened the door to let me in and went about seeking other riders while the other got in and started to the home of the principal.

While we were on our way the driver evidentally noticed my discharge button and asked, "how long have you been out of the service"? I replied, "about four months". "I have been out a little better than ten months", said he. Since he started a conversation and being a veteran as well as cab driver I felt that he could be of much assistance to me in meeting the people of Jasper. So, I asked him where was the Veterans Service Office located. "At the courthouse and his name is Bodkin. Of course, around here, we call him Chief

Bodkin", said he. As our conversation continued I wanted to and did learn more about the Veterans Service Officer I was to see, Chief Bodkin. The driver informed me that Chief Bodkin was a man of about 58 who is "well set in his ways, but, if you know him, he's OK".

Prior to reaching the home of the colored high school principal the driver, who knows him very well, said he hadnot seen him for several weeks and that he might be out of town. When we reached Professor J. H. Rowe's home the cab driver said, "I will wait here for you and if he's not home I'll take you back to town so you can see Chief Bodkin". It happened as the cab driver thought--Mr. J. H. Rowe, Jr., principal of the J. H. Rowe High School was out of town so I talked with Mr. Rowe's mother a few minutes and went back to the cab. The driver carried me back to town, without any extra charges, to see Chief Bodkin. I thanked the driver for having waited for me and went to the office of Chief Bodkin.

Mr. E. C. Bodkin, County Veterans Officer, was sitting at his desk opening letters when I entered and asked, "Boy, what can I do for you"? I showed him my letter and stated my reason for entering his office. To me he said, "I don't know if you are the right man representing this organization or whether you are somebody else. I should have received a letter from your organization as well as from our regional office informing me that you were coming then I would know whether to give you the information you want. I am sorry but I can't give you any information about this office until I get instructions from our regional office in Houston. I'll tell you what you can do--you can go to the office of "The Jasper News-Boy", our daily paper, and get a copy and in today's paper I am sure you'll find the information you want." Having learned from the driver the type of person Mr. Bodkin was I didnot insist on Mr. Bodkin giving me the information I wanted but thanked him and left. I think the reason why Mr. Bodkin refused to give me the information I asked for is fear of it being used against him. However, I told him that the information given to me would not be published but it seems that Mr. Bodkin feels that his job would be at stake if he were to give out any information without being instructed by the regional office to do so.

After purchasing a copy of "The Jasper News-Boy" I went to East Jasper where the greater portion of Jasper's Negro citizens live. Here, I met a former school-mate of mine, Miss Carrie B. Redd, principal of the Newton School for Colored, and enjoyed an interesting conversation with her about veterans. Miss Redd does quite a bit of civic work in her community aside from her work as school principal. She is attempting to set up a co-operative grocery store with veterans being members of the co-operative set-up. She has also assisted many of the veterans in adjusting themselves to their community, locating schools for them according to their interest and also helping them get employment. I suggested to Miss Redd, because of her interest in veterans

that it would be a fine thing if a few of the citizens would set up a committee to look out for the welfare of the men who are returning home. "Well, said she, I've talked with veterans of both wars and I think they are going to organize a chapter of the American Legion and I am going to do everything I can to help them."

Miss Redd carried me to see her pastor, Reverend N. Peacock, a leading figure in community welfare in Jasper. While talking with Reverend Peacock I made mention of the suggestion I made to Miss Redd and he too, said he would be glad to work with Miss Redd and the veterans. He also said that he would make mention of it in his church Sunday and seek to get them started on something constructive.

While downtown I went to the USES Office and talked with Mr. V. T. Mason, manager of the USES Office here in Jasper. During our conservation Mr. Mason said, "it has always been my belief that there should be some type of establishment operating to give the veterans a chance for job-training. There are a number of veterans who don't want to leave home because of their families and countless other reasons and because of that I feel that something should have been done or should be done now because the boys are coming back home disappointed. They came back from over seas or even in the states after two or three years only to find that nothing, in the way of setting-up new industries, has been done to relieve the unemployment problem. I think I'll take this matter up with our Chamber of Commerce and see what they think of it because we really need something for the men who are coming home daily". Mr. Mason said that more than five hundred veterans had applied for skilled labor jobs and of this five hundred 175 were Negro boys but, "we don't have anything or any place to place either Negro or white veterans. When I got ready to leave Mr. Mason got up and with a pleasant smile shook my hand and said, "Mr. Tatum, whenever you are back in our city come by and see me".

When I left Mr. Mason I went to see Mr. Wm. W. Armstrong, owner of the Armstrong Grocery Store. Mr. Armstrong is a veteran of World War I and a leading Negro citizen of Jasper. I asked him if they had a veterans organization in Jasper and he said, "no we don't have but we've been talking about organizing a chapter of the American Legion for the Negro Veterans in Jasper. We are to have our first get-together next Wednesday night so as to organize and get recognition as an American Legion Post. If it be possible, I would like for you to be with us next Wednesday night when we plan to organize". I didnot promise Mr. Armstrong that I would be present because I plan to be in central Texas next week, but I told him I would be back sometime in the near future.

Sincerely,

Jewel M. Tatum

Jewel M. Tatum

P. S. Correction--The Wall-Hammond Trade School at Houston, Texas has 400 veterans.

J M T

July 19, 1946

Mr. Jewel M. Tatum
2020 Cable Street
Beaumont, Texas

Dear Mr. Tatum:

I am a week behind in answering your two good letters of July 3rd and 12th. I have been out on a trip to Fisk and to New York.

You are doing a lot of good.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Field Agent

Field agent

July 23, 1946

Mr. Jewel M. Tatum
2020 Cable Street
Beaumont, Texas

Dear Mr. Tatum:

Thanks for your letter of July 19th.

Mr. Bohannon appreciates the information about Veterans, Inc.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Prairie View University
Prairie View, Texas
July 19, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services
Southern Regional Counsil, Inc.
63 Auburn Avenue N.E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

Prairie View University, an agricultural and mechanical college for Negroes, is located in Waller County, forty-six miles northwest of Houston. Prairie View University has a three-fold purpose which may be stated as follows:

(1) "To serve the state of Texas at the point of its greatest need.

(2) To serve the colored citizens of Texas, and the southwest, at the point of their greatest need.

(3) To bring the student's training into closer relationship with life's occupations and problems."

The philosophy of the school has advocated for many years is, "the education of Negroes must have for its objectives the making of a worthwhile life and a respectable living. In addition to being an agricultural and mechanical college it has a teachers college and trade school which maintains the best possible work in these fields.

Here at Prairie View University I talked with Mr. Lee E. Perkins, Veterans Counselor for veterans attending Prairie View University The present enrollment of veterans, including men and women, is 347. Of this number 219 are enrolled in such trades as: Baking, Blacksmithing, Matress Making, Sheet Metal Automobile Mechanics, Agruculture and etc. Says Mr. Perkins, "upon completion of the prescribed courses the veteran is given a trade certificate and is fitted to hold a job making use of the developed skills in the particular trade studied. In other fields such as music, veterans will have an opportunity to become specalists in instrumental music, piano, conducting, band direction and the like"

Through Mr. Perkins the veterans get individual counseling and guidance which enables each veteran to get proper attention to his problem. In co-operation with the Veterans Administration the

the university is able to give counseling and guidance to all honorable discharged men and women. In order that the veterans may meet the necessary requirements,for degrees and teaching certificates, the university through Mr. Perkins, gives particular consideration to the veteran by aiding him to plan his course of study. Where necessary, placement and aptitude tests are given to aid in the proper classifying of veterans.

Mr. Perkins said that, "the university has had to place hundreds of veterans on a waiting list because of the lack of facilities to accommodate the applicants we have received. At the present we have 50 housing units and are expecting to receive that many more sometime during next month so as to be able to accept more veterans. The counseling and guidance here at the university is not a set-up of the Veterans Administration however, I understand that sometime in the near future such a center will be set-up here. When it is I certainly will be glad because it will be an answer to the many problems we are now facing." Out of the 347 veterans there are more than 235 of them who have filed for and received absentee ballots for the coming primary election. This assistance is also a part of the work of Mr. Perkins.

The university has a veterans organization known as "Veterans Inc." Veterans Incorporated, with Mr. Perkins, a veteran himself, serving as its advisor, has as one of its primary objectives the boostering of interest in not only veterans but other students of the university as well as participation in political issues. They have placed placards, bullentins and written letters to each student now in school, to students who went home for the summer session and others in order that each person and Negroes particularly may take advantage of the opportunity to vote in coming primary election.

Sincerely,

Jewel M. Tatum

205 Kober Street
Brenham, Texas
July 23, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services
Southern Regional Counsil, Inc.
63 Auburn Avenue N.E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

Brenham, the county seat of Washington County, is inspite of its small size, a city of hospitality, something which is rare to find in a city of its size in the state of Texas. During the few days I've spent here, in search for s some information about veterans, I was met with a "good morning or how are you" from Negroes and whites alike while walking through the city streets of Brenham. The location of the city, which has as its slogan: "City of Hospitality", is approximately thirty-five miles from Prairie View, Texas.

"The City of Hospitality", Brenham, though incorporated as a city in 1858, has not been quite as progressive as others from the standpoint of industrial development. The chief source of income comes from an oil mill and two cotton mills. Outside of these, and the employees in these mills are a few in number, Brenham does not have a payroll. With the absence of industry and other business establishments Brenham's veterans, who constitute the greater percentage of the unemployed, are having to draw their weekly allowance while waiting for something to be done to give them employment.

In discussing the situation with Mr. Paul Bowen, Contact Representative of the Veterans Administration, I was informed that more than seventy-five percent of all veterans in Washington County were receiving the weekly readjustment allowance. When Mr. Bowen made mention of this I shouted, "Why! are the veterans being encouraged to get the allowance? Smiling he said, "no Mr. Tatum, it just so happens that there isn't anything going on around here to give the veterans employment so, their only source of income is the allowance. As we continued to talk I asked Mr. Bowen if or not the city had given thought to post-war planning in the light of returning service-men. "Yes, he replied, "but we've been somewhat late in getting started . Of course, as you've no doubt noticed that most of the unpaved streets are being surveyed for paving and when these streets get underway I am sure this will cut down on our unemployment problem."

When I asked Mr. Bowen the number of veterans taking farm, job or institution training he said, "there are ninety veterans on-the-job training and about eighteen of this number are Negroes. At the present we have only 75 farm veterans but I am sure when our farm program is complete in September there will be five times that many or more because this is a farming area and a number of the veterans are experienced in this line of work." At the end of his statement on farm training I replied, "Yes, sir, with a well directed and properly carried out farm program for veterans whose interest lies in this field, much can be accomplished in the way of reducing the number who

are getting the allowance because of the lack of employment throughout the county as well as throughout the state and nation. By so engaging themselves, in farm training in sections of this size and smaller, the veterans will have a reserve in the future on which to fall back on upon completion of their training until they begin to farm independently". "Tatum, said Mr. Bowen, " you've said somthing and that is what we are trying to get the veterans to see---the need of letting the allowance serve as a saving for their future need". Continued he, "as for institutional training we are not running into much difficulty because of a large number of veterans are filing applications daily to enter high school, trade school and college. Of course, the only difficulty we are having here, is the lack of accommodations by schools for the veterans. The number of veterans we have for institutuonal training is somewhat like 516 with about 209 being Negro veterans.

At the County Courthouse I also talked with the County Service Officer, Mr. William H. Shroeder. Mr. Shroeder made mention of the same facts as did Mr. Bowen. "With our farm program going into full swing in September I am hoping that there will be no veterans unemployed in Brenham. For those who don't take farm or institutional training will be able to get good jobs as soon as the paving of our streets are started, which is one of the post-war projects of our city,"said Mr. Shroeder.

Before leaving both men asked me what might they do to further aid the veterans. I suggested to each of them to work with the Tommy Harris Post #48A, the Negro post of the American Legion, in helping them to be of a greater service to the veterans and the city of Brenham. Both thought it a fine suggestion and said they would offer their service with the hope of sitting-up a program to assist the veterans in every way possible. My reception by both of these men was fine and I left with a feeling and belief, coupled with the friendliness of those I met on the street, that the city's slogan, "City of Hospitality", is a reality.

Among the Negro citizens of Brenham I talked with was a Mr. William A. Pendergraff, a young intelligent Negro veteran who served as Warrant Officer in the Army of the United States and who is the Adjutant of the Tommy Harris Post #48A of the American Legion of Brenham. Mr. Pendergraff, also a former teacher and insurance executive, is among the many veterans seeking employment. Said he, "there are a few jobs, as there is no large payroll, being offered to veterans but the salaries are so small until I nor any other veteran want to take them. These jobs pay fifty-cents an hour and after working on the forty hour week basis and with deductions coming out you don't have $15.00 left after a hard week's work. This says, Mr. Pendergraff, is the reason why most of the veterans have been drawing the twenty-dollar weekly allowance in perference to working because they do have the allowance without deductions being taken out."

While talking with Mr. Pendergraff he told me of the efforts he has made in seeking employment as a Registration Officer for the Veterans Administration in the state of Texas. Said Mr. Pendergraff, "I have a CAF7 rating and received a letter from the Dallas Headquarters of the Civil Service Department of the United States Government stating that I had passed the civil service examination for a CAF7 appointment but, that I will be appointed when such vacancy occurs in which I can be placed. The letter went something like this, "when there is a vacancy in which you can be placed you will be appointed as a Registration Officer". The use of the word you in the letter was not conspicious

in that it was not underscored neither was it enclosed in parenthesis but from what I gathered it indicated, as far as I could see, that because I am a Negro and inspite of my having successfully passed the examination, I will not be appointed until some provisions are made to appoint Negroes as CAF7 in Texas." I asked Mr. Pendergraff for the name of the person whose signature appeared on the letter but he didn't have the letter which bared the signature and promised me as soon as he from the person he let have it to type a letter to the Dallas Headquaters in quest for a clearer understanding of it he would send the same to me. I will, when I receive it from Mr. Pendergraff, send it to you. He is also sending a letter to his congressman regarding the reply he recieved from the Dallas headquarters.

In discussing job training Mr. Pendergraff said that he knew only of one Negro, a Mr. Floyd Young, who is on-the-job training as an Engineer and Fireman at the Brenham Compress. Mr. Pendergraff said the post, of which he is adjutant, is considering job training but, "after consideration there isn't anything we can accomplish because there are no industries where we c n place men as trainees."

I also talked with Brenham's only Negro doctor. Doctor John H. Porter Jr., a dentist and outstanding citizen of Brenham, has been and is yet devoting a considerable portion of his time in helping veterans solve their many problems. A part of his office is being used for veterans to go and get information and other help they may need.

Desiring a true picture of the extent to which veterans were getting the readjustment allowance I visited three of the juke joints and spent approximately four hours in the three, which seems to be the only place of amusement for veterans and learned that only one out of every twenty did not make applications for the allowance.

Veterans in such small towns and rural areas are most discontented because they return to find that while they fought in Europe and the Pacific that the people back home made little or no plans to relieve the problem of unempl yment for the thousands who have been discharged. In talking to several veterans some said they were going to re-enlist in view of the fact that the pay of the service men has been increased. Said one, "with the grade I held in the army I know I can beat sitting around here getting $20.00 per week while waiting for these people to start something to give the veterans work."

Sincerely,

Jewel M. Tatum

Jewel M. Tatum

Samuel Huston College
Austin 22, Texas
August 2, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services
Southern Regional Counsil, Inc.
63 Auburn Avenue N.E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

Attention: Mr. Horace Bohannon

Excluding the white American Legions of Austin there is only one veterans organization located here, and it is a chapter of the American Veterans Committee, a national organization.

The information requested on veterans organizations follows:

Name of organization: Austin Chapter of American Veterans Committee

Character - make-up : Interracial: all veterans who wish to join.

Approximate membership: 1500

Approximate Area covered: Austin

Thinking in terms of "old line" veterans organizations, i.e. Legion and VFW as to competing or infiltration: None

Effectiveness of organization in community or any area:
It effectiveness in the community has been the awakening of the community's interest in the veterans problems and interest in the recent democratic primary election for the election of worthy citizens to state offices.

Has the organization mande any outstanding contribution?

As yet the organization has made no outstanding contribution, but is contemplating making a contribution in the near future which will be of benefit to the entire citizens of Austin.

Names and addresses of officers:

Chairman Lee G. Williams 1900 Pecos

Vice Chairman	Calvin C. Lynch	Samuel Huston College
Secretary	Mollie Acreman	2901 Bonnie Road
Treasurer	Sarah M. Payne	4708 Shoalwood Ave.

Executive Counsil: (other than officers above)

1.	Fred H. Schmidt	1307 West Ave.
2.	Robert C. Eckhardt	310 E. 14th St.
3.	Stuart M. Long	3206 Gilbert

Chairman of Standing Committees:

1.	Publicity	Leonard V. Todd	2314 Kinney Road.
2.	Legislation & Research	Stuart M. Long	3206 Gilbert St.
3.	Membership	Ernest F. Patterson	802 West Ave.
4.	Local Activities	Brenner Ksye Holloman	1105 Rio Grande Ave.
5.	Rules	Alexander Louis	702 Littlefield Bldg.

Aims and Purposes:

Adequate financial, medical, vocational and educational assistance for every veteran.

A job for every veteran, under a system of private enterprise in which business, labor, agriculture and government work together to provide full employment and full production for the nation.

Thorough social and economic security.

Free speech, press, worship, assembly, and ballot.

Disarmament of Germany and Japan and the elimination of the power of their militarist classes.

Active participation of the United States in the United Nations organization to stop any treat of aggression and to promote socail and economic measures which will remove the causes of war.

Establishment of an international veterans counsil for the furtherance of world peace and justice among the peoples of all nations.

Sincerely,

Jewel M. Tatum

Jewel M. Tatum

2 extras

Samuel Huston College
Austin 22, Texas
August 2, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services
Southern Regional Counsil, Inc.
63 Auburn Avenue N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

And this is the State's Capitol City, Austin, which I often refer to as my adopted hometown, because this is where I spent my collegiate days and because of the generous hearted inhabitants living here. The hospitalities of its town's people are symbolic of its slogan, "The Friendly City". There isn't a home in this city of friendliness, love, and generosity that does not have its doors open to all who come here.

Austin, "The Friendly City", "The City of Violet Crown", and the Capitol of the State of Texas, is so well liked by travelers and visitors to the extent that many of them chose Austin as their homesite, because they become so impressed with its natural beauties which embrace something of all good things, and that is why so many desirable citizens are attracted to this city.

The city has a municipal government under the counsil-manager plan which was instituted in 1926 and under such a leadership of honesty, capability, and real civic-minded officials, it has, for the past nineteen years ended with a cash balance in all funds. Today, it has the lowest tax rate among the ten largest cities in the state. It was named after Stephen F. Austin, the Father of Texas and was located in 1839 by a commission appointed by the Republic of Texas which carried out its instructions to find the most attractive spot in Texas by selecting the site where the city now stands in Central Texas.

Austin, though not a manufacturing city primarily, has 92 such establishments and the products of which bring the city an annual income of $7,545,635. These industries are favored in special instances by being close to supplies of raw materials. The largest chili and tamale canning factory in the U.S., and the largest brick plant in the Southwest are among its outstanding industries.

Aside from being the Capitol of the State of Texas, Austin is also

the "Educational Center" of the "Lone Star State". It provides exceptional educational facilities and opportunities in all types and levels of training. Of course, the all types and levels of training are not the opportunities of the Negro students who come to Austin seeking an education, but are the opportunities of the whites in any trade or profession they seek. Educational institutions include the State University, "The University of Texas", a senior college, State Schools for the deaf and blind, a number of schools of business training, though there isn't a Negro business school in Austin, two theological seminaries for whites, and numerous private, elementary and secondary schools.

The University of Texas, with its exceptional physical equipment, its outstanding Graduate schools, its unsurpassed library facilities for research, and its distinguished faculty, offers opportunities for advanced and graduate study equal to others such schools the country-over.

Out of the many schools in Austin there are two Negro senior colleges, Samuel Huston College, a Methodist Institution and my alma mater, and Tillotson College, a Congregational Institution. Other Negro schools, excluding the two names and the city schools, are two Negro Beauty Cultural Colleges.

In the humming heat of the mid-summer day of July 26 as I was on my way to the Veterans Administration's office, I glanced up and read a sign, "Negro County Agricultural Agent" so, I stopped in to talk with Mr. T. A. Mayes about farm training for the veterans of Travis County. Mr. Mayes said he didn't know of any Negro veteran who has filed an application for farm training but he does know of one who is seeking a loan to purchase a farm. "Such training", he asserted, "is taken care of by our Vocational Teachers and we have two in this county located at Littig and Manor, Texas respectively. It seems to me that the Negro veterans who want farm training should be directed to this office and I should be consulted each time a Negro veteran seeks farm training or a loan because I know this farming area. Having worked as an agricultural agent for more than thirty years and knowing this section as I do, I know just what farms could be more beneficial to the veterans. But, when Negro veterans make applications for either I never know anything about it until the man has gone in debt in purchasing a farm which, in a sense, is non-profitable. I was placed on a committee to serve as a special consultant on farm problems affecting Negroes of Travis County, but when such problems arise I am never notified. Of course, if the farmer isn't successful and he's about to lose everything he then, comes to me and I do the best I can for him", daid Mr. Mayes. Mr. Mayes showed me several papers of Negro farmers who have been robbed of their farm possessions and are now trying to re-possess them with his assistance. "Negro farmers", he said, "have once owned some of the best farms in Travis County, but because they've been forced , through illegal means to sell their equipment, and in some cases their farms, they have in many instances become disgusted and today numbers of them are leaving the farms and moving to urban centers in search for jobs because they feel that farming does not pay.

I plan, since coming here, to see that the few farmers left will get justice in their purchases and try to make them realize the need of farming in this area. And, too, I am going to see that our vocational agricultural teachers have a well developed program for the veterans so as to encourage more young men to become farmers". I told Mr. Mayes that, "with the accomplishments of your plans you will certainly be a definite asset to the farm veterans, farmers, and people of Travis County." Before leaving he told me that, " down the Colorado River in this county, there is some very good f farm land but it is being cut-up in ten acre blocks and sold to Negro prospective farmers. Such a small tract, consisting of only ten acres, cannot be considered as an economical unit when it comes farming." I thanked Mr. Mayes for the information and expressed to to him my deepest wishes for his success in making the adjustment in the interest of the Negro farmers in this county and left for the Veterans Administration's office.

It was after two o'clock when I entered the Littlefield Building where the office of the Veterans Administration is located. When I entered the office it was just about crowded with white veterans. The stenographer, who sets in the reception room looked up and said "come in and have a seat". The office, with two men and two women, renders an efficient service for in spite of the crowd no one is in the office over thirty-minutes before he is waited on. The two men come to the inside door of the reception room and ask, "whose next", and each person enters either of the private offices according to his or her turn. When it was my turn to go in, the younger of the two men came to the door and said, "whose next", I got up and followed him to his desk. Reaching his desk he said, "what can I do for you"? I gave him a card, showed him my letter and told him why I had come to the office. Extending his hand he said, "Bruckman". After introducing ourselves to each other he offered me a seat. He picked up the letter again and looked at the letter-head and said, " I worked with Mr. Charles Johnson of Fisk University for about two years on race relations committees and problems". He then began to ask questions about the organization and said he was certainly glad that the organization was spreading throughout the entire south. Mr. Tatum", said he, "I did social work in New York for a number of years and like it very much. My wife also worked along with me and and the two of us are planning to do more of it. Of course, she is now working on her Ph.D in psychology and I am making preparations to take the bar examination in a few weeks. After she gets out and I pass the bar we are planning to organize an interracial group in Texas with members of all races represented, for such an organization is needed in Texas. Our organization will be designed to give legal assistance to all races". His comment on job training was that in the south, where Negroes must go into white industries as trainees, "it is somewhat a difficult problem to get Negro veterans in on a large scale." Continued he, "because I have worked with social agencies in the North and since coming here finding the situation as it is, it irks me to see how unjustly Negroes are treated. If my wife and I be successful with what we have in mind doing, we shall place stress on the education of Southern whites so as to destroy their prejudices against Negroes. Mr. Tatum, since working here, I've stuck my neck out several times in the interest of the Negrooes

Doc Aug 3, '46
Neil CSB

but I am one of a very small few and I must deal with the prejudice people rather carefully and attempt to change their attitudes gradually. We've had a number of veterans to come here seeking job training, but there is no way we can tell if or not the men got jobs for sometimes they start out on job training and find situations unlike they expected and quit their jobs." I spent more time talking with Mr. Bruckman than all of the tem persons who went in before me. While talking with him the other Contact Representative took care of six persons. I expressed to Mr. Bruckman my happiness for having found a man like him working in the Veterans Administration's office and told him if he should be successful in setting up such an organization that I would be too glad to do everything I possible could in helping out. During our conservation we smoked two of his cigarettes and when I got up to go he grabbed my hand and said, "I am certainly glad I met you and if there be anything I can do just come right up here and see men and I'll assure you that you can depend on me for any assistance you may desire."

About nine the next morning I caught a cab and went to town. As I walked from place to place in search for people I was looking for I finally realized that it was only two days before election day in Texas and it seemed that a number of the people were interesting themselves in the coming election. So, having sent in my absentee ballot for Dr. Homer P. Rainey as governor of the state and other liberals, I begin to devote my time to contacting veterans. I must have talked with more than 300 veterans individually in the two days for I felt that there was a definite need to re-establish in the minds of the veterans their right to vote in the democratic primary election. Futher realizing that I was here in the interest of veterans and knowing that this is the first time in the history of Negroes since the Civil War that they could go to the polls and cast their vote for the men, upon whose shoulders will rest the destiny of my people for the next two years, made me feel all the more that it was my duty to interest the Negro veterans to go to the polls and vote in the primary election.

I got up early Saturday morning and went out on the streets to meet the block-sitters, who spend their time and allowance in playing pool and other such games. I was rather successful in breaking-up a number of them by asking them to go and vote. Said several of them in their pool-room lango, "Say, Ace, since you are interested in veterans casting their ballots, who are the persons we should vote for"? I explained in brief the platforms of a few of the candidates and urged them to go to the polls and vote. I spent a portion of the remaining half of the day making frequent visits to some of the polls and saw many of the faces I had talked with the day before and early that morning.

I spent Saturday night by the radio listering to returns of the of the gubernatorial election and have been on pins since, because Dr. Rainey is holding second place. The winner in the race for governor will be determined in the general election on the 24th of next month. I sincerely trust that the fate of Mississippi and Georgia will not be duplicated in Texas. If it be, then there is no need to further explain the future of Negroes in Texas.

By ten Monday morning I was on my way to the University of Texas, which has a sub-branch of the Veterans Administration located on the third floor of Sutton Hall on the University Campus. I entered the eleborate office of the Veterans Administration and there, sits five stenographers and two men in the open part of the office. As I enteted I noticed there were twenty chairs available for veterans who enter the office but I didn't take a seat, as I never sit in anybody's office unless I am offered a seat. When I entered the eyes of the office personnel began to stare at each other as if I were seeking a letter of eligibility to enter Texas University. After standing for several minutes, on exhibition or as a model for the latest in men wear as the silence and starring of the office personnel seemed to have indicated to me, one of the stenographers asked,"what do you want"? I showed her my card and letter and asked to speak to Dr. Roger A. Burgess as the others listened attentively. When I had made known my entrance into the office the silence broke and everybody went back to work as if nothing unusual had happened.

The stenographer took the card and went into Dr. Burgess' office. While she was in the office I heard soft swipers but not clear enough for me to catch. The two came out into the reception room and the lady took her seat at the typerwriter while Dr. Burgess stood momentarily with a shadow seeming to be crossing his face and said, "how are you"?---what can I do for you"? But, as I was opening my mouth to tell him what I wanted, he continued, "this office is for veterans of the university". This, of course, was quite obvious as this isn't the first school to which I have gone! I am sure Dr. Burgess and his staff thought I was Mr. Herman M. Sweatt, the Negro who filed a suit against the University of Texas or another Negro seeking a letter of eligibility to enter the University. I couldn't get any information out of him except the veterans enrollment which is 6025.

At Samuel Huston College I talked with Mr. M. J. Anderson, instructor and veterans counsilor. According to Mr. Anderson's statement the school has now 52 veterans and 10 trailor houses for veterans and is anticipationg more units and 200 more veterans in September. Said he, "we would like to accept more veterans but we don't have the necessary facilities. We are, however, making preparations for 200 more for the coming fall session". I asked Mr. Anderson if the veterans had a campus organization and he said,"no, most of the men are members of the American Veterans Committee, which is an interracial organization that has a chapter in Austin."

In the after-noon of the same day I went over to Tillotson College and talked with President William H. Jones. Tillotson's veterans enrollment is 47 and prepartaions are being made for 150 when school starts in September. "I just left Dallas where I received this blue-print for our housing units for veterans. Already we've received something like 600 applications but we just can't take all of them, because we don't have places for them," said President Jones. Like Samuel Huston the veterans are members of the AVC chapter of Austin. Both schools offer a liberal arts education which leads to a B.A. or B.S. degree.

Following is the names of some of the institutions in Austin and their veterans' enrollment:

School	Vets Enrollment	Type
Austin Presbyterian Seminary	574	White
Durham's Business College	112	White
Nixon-Clay Commercial College	141	White
Samuel Huston College	52	Negro
St. Edwards University	613	White
Tillotson College	47	Negro
University of Texas	6025	White

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Yesterday I went to the County Courthouse to see Mr. E. B. Knehue, County Service Officer for Travis County. In discussing job training with him, he disclosed that, "there are a number of men on jobs as trainees but as to the number there is no way of telling ecactly how many. We did, at one time, make a spot check and found a number of the men had left the jobs for various reasons and since we have not been keeping up with them after they leave here to go on jobs as trainees or apprentices."

In Austin there are many labor unions and I visited two of them. One is the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Painters and its Business Manager, Mr. Robert H. H ill, said, "we don't have any colored boys in our union and none in any of the unions in Austin. In this particular union we have 13 veterans taking apprenticeship training but none of them are colored. Some of the unions use a few colored boys as laborers and that's not often. In order for anyone to get apprenticeship training in the unions he must first join the union and colored are barred from the union as members." The other was the Austin Labor Temple Association and its President, Mr. John W. Carpenter, said just about the same as did Mr. Hill. So, as far as apprenticeship training in Austin for Negro veterans is concerned, there is no possibility of them getting the training because they won't accept them in the unions as members.

Adjacent to the Austin Labor Temple Building is the Land Office Building where can be found the office of Mr. O. A. Willman, Chairman, State Veterans Approving Committee. In reality Mr. Willman is the intercessor between the State Board for Vocational Education and the Veterans Administration. "The functions of this office," said Mr. Willman, "are as follow":

1. To receive applications for approval of all schools offering Trade and Industrial, Distributive, and Agricultural Education.

2. To receive the reports and recommendations of the Texas State Board for Vocational Education and to take necessary action for approval or disapproval.

3. To receive reports from the Regional Offices of the Veterans Administration concerning any functional irregularities in schools and to refer such reports to the State Board for Vocational Education.

4. To notify the school, the State Board for Vocational Education, and the appropriate regional office of the Veterans Administration of all action taken.

Already in the State of Texas there are 93 County Vocational Schools. The Veterans Vocational Schools under the supervision of the State Board for Vocational Education will include the following major types of instruction, and classes will be organized under each type as the need arises:

1. Agricultural Education

2. Distributive Education

3. Homemaking Education

4. Trade and Industrial Education."

Mr. Willman closed by giving in detail the supervision of the types of training listed above. When I entered his office one of the secretaries, speaking very friendly, said, "how are you---may I help you"? I spoke and gave her my card and letter and asked to speak to Mr. Willman. She went into Mr. Willman's office and came back and told me to go right in. I went in and Mr. Willman was standing behind his desk and as soon as I entered asked," how are you sir, will you have a seat"? I thanked him and took a seat and we began to talk about veterans. When we finished he got up, shook my hand, and said, "if you should need any more assistance from this office come in any time".

Topic of spirited talk and controversy over many current capitol dinner tables here, in Texas, is the recent action of the Negro veteran, Mr. Herman Marion Sweatt, in conjunction with the outcome of his suit against the University of Texas in which the State Supreme Court's decision was the directing the State Board of Education to set-up a Negro University for the state or the admittance of Mr. Sweatt to the University of Texas six months after the date of the decision. The idea which seems to be tossed around over dinner tables is the place of location for the Negro University. One of the most controversial figures, with regards to its location, is Dr. Everett H. Givens, Austin Negro dentist and most outstanding political leader in the capitol city of the Lone Star State. Dr. Givens, "the most civic-minded man of Austin", as he is often referred to, is all out for the betterment of veterans the state-over. I am of the opinion, if a great deal be accomplished for veterans in Texas, where the fight of Negro leadership is to play a leading role, Dr. Givens is the man who will have much to do with the same, because of his influence with city and state officials. He has filed a suit against the state to set-up the Negro University in Austin and on the eighth of August, in the House of Representatives at the Capitol Building, will be held an open hearing. Said Dr. Givens, "The State can well afford to build the Negro University here which will be a definite asset to the many veterans and others, not only in this area, but the entire state." Dr. Givens has assisted many veterans inf finding employment as well as helping them in other matters. He also got hundreds of veterans to vote in last Saturday's election and pointed out to them, in an address at the Rosewood Park last Friday night, the importance of them casting their ballots in the election.

Sincerely,

Jewel M. Tatum

Jewel M. Tatum

NATIONAL CIO COMMITTEE TO ABOLISH DISCRIMINATION

718 JACKSON PLACE, N. W.
WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

GEORGE L-P WEAVER, Director,
Telephone: EXecutive 5581

NATIONAL COMMITTEE
James B. Carey, Chairman
Willard S. Townsend, Secretary
James J. Leary
Boyd L. Wilson
Morris Muster
Harry Read
M. Hedley Stone
Geo. W. Crockett, Jr.

August 5, 1946

Mr. George S. Mitchell
Southern Regional Council
63 Auburn Avenue, N.E., Room 432
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

I have your letter of July 18, 1946 relative to the refusal of the Humble Refinery in Texas to upgrade Negro employees, and wish to advise that we will immediately investigate the situation and will keep you informed of future developments.

We greatly appreciate being informed of matters of this type which come within the scope and jurisdiction of the activities of this Committee.

Sincerely yours,

George L-P Weaver

George L-P Weaver
Director

GLPW:as

Bastrop, Texas
August 7, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

While yet moving about along the Colorado River in the portion of Central Texas, I have found myself in a little town south of Austin, Texas' capitol City, in a city which bears the name of Bastrop, and which name is also that of the county of which this city is the seat. Bastrop has a population of some 30,000 or more but its growth, industrially, has not kept pace with other cities of its size.

Although the city and the entire county of Bastrop boast of the fact that it has a health-ful climate, the best water in Texas, good railroads, highways, fast motor service, modern bus lines, modern sewage systems, lumber yards and churches, the progress of the cities comprizing the county of Bastrop seem to be a rather slow one. Bastrop's chief industry is cattle grazing. The Colorado River Valley's soil is rich in nitrogen, potash and phosphate - the three elements so essential to proper plant and animal growth - and no livestock dependent on the native grasses for sustenance can ever raise their standard above the nutrition of the native plant life.

Cattle, buffalo, horses, deer and other grass eating animals were as good judges of a fertile soil as man was,and one always finds these animals in the most numbers where the land offers the best grazing. And, this is the principal reason Bastrop County's chief industry is cattle-grazing.

Prior to the out-break of the War, the citizens of Bastrop county engaged themselves in farming, but with the coming of the War and the country's need for man-power in all branches of service as well as in War production plants, the Bastrop area began to lose its many farmers who went to larger cities in search for fat pay envelopes, and since the farms in this county's area have gone lacking for farmers and farm hands.

Bastrop no doubt, had a far better out-look from the stand point of veterans re-adjustment than any city or state the country - over; for as early as November, 1944, a gentleman (white) by the name of Mr. John F. Show, outlined a plan for the returning veterans in Bastrop county. Mr. Show organized a group of interested people in veterans problems known as "The Ex-Service Men's Aid Association." The Ex-Service Men's Aid Association, a non-profiting corporation, legally incorporated under the laws of the state of Texas, for the purpose of aiding ex-service men in securing homes, farms and jobs. The association proposed many projects in the interest of the many men who would later be returning home in search for opportunities for better living conditions.

Like all good things which have as their purpose, the welfare of the masses at heart die - "The Ex-Service Men's Aid Association too died in oblivion. Its death was due to the non-endorsement of Bastrop's Chamber of Commerce and other such organizations.

One of the proposed projects of the Ex-Service Men's Aid Association was the Ex-Service Men's Home Plan. The purpose of the Ex-Service Men's Home Plan was to re-settle some two or three miles from Bastrop, Texas, on the rich bottom lands along the Colorado River.

A colony of war veterans, retired army officers and retired Federal employees, who have permanent monthly incomes, where with payments of about $18.00 per month, these retired pensioners could have taken the money paid out for rent and bought themselves five or ten acres of rich bottom soil, a farm or five room house with improvements, and with incomes from a truck garden, one hundred or more chickens, eggs, milk and butter from one or more cows, could have not only reduced his table expenses, but restored his health and enabled him to become an independent American citizen through the efforts of himself and his family.

There are many veterans of World War II disabled and on pensions, and if this plan could have become effective, it would have shown foresight on the part of the citizens who were back home, while those men fought on foreign soil for their safety and security. By having the farms ready when the veterans returned where they could have mingled with their fathers and buddies of World War I would have made them know that their many restless nights in fox holes were not what the indications thus far seem - lack of interest in their problem, lack of appreciation for their struggle and noble fight to make our country safe from the hazards of warfare, and lack of appreciation for the insurmountable handicaps they encountered to keep the enemies from reaching our shores.

Yes, Mr. Show's plan died and left the veterans out in the cold. Today, not only here in Bastrop county are their desires being ignored, forgotten and crushed like such people who fight against these young and brave heroes, but this something is happening elsewhere in Texas and perhaps other states. After the defeat of his plan, Mr. Show left the city in hopes that somewhere somebody will give ear to his project.

Monday afternoon, I went to the old Historical Courthouse here in Bastrop, and had a long and interesting talk with the County Service Officer, Mr. I. Lloyd Hood. When I entered Mr. Hood's office, he was sitting at his desk and when he looked up and saw me, he asked, "How are you? Come in and have a seat?" I went in and he said, "Hood." I said, "Tatum" and showed him my letter and stated my mission. I sat across from him where I could look him straight in the eyes as he talked, which would enable me to judge him not only on his thoughts, but on his facial expression as he talked. During the more than forty-five minutes I spent talking with him, he utilized most of it talking without me having to ask many questions.

Appearing to be a bit nervous during our conversation, Mr. Hood pulled out a package of "Old Golds" and offered me one. I took one and struck a match, and the two of us smoked and proceeded to talk. Mr. Hood made constant repetions during my stay in his office, about what wasn't being done for veterans of Bastrop county. Said Mr. Hood in a trembling voice, "there is no point in me trying to deny the fact that the colored boys are not getting a break, because you know better, and I know,for I was born and reared in Texas, and I know they are not treated as they should be treated. There are some places right here in Texas where men are doing the same type of work that I am doing, who just don't take the time to talk to the colored veterans or encourage them to take advantage of the G. I. Bill of Rights.

It would be a fine thing if people all over the country could get what they rightfully deserve, regardless of their wealth or color. I treat all men alike, and don't just take my word, go out and ask some of the colored people around here, and they'll tell you the same thing. I have a number of colored veterans to come in here and I ask each one to have a seat and talk with him like I would any other veteran. Every time one leaves here, I tell him to send his buddies in to see me, for that is the reason I am here - to help all of them, and I show no favors to none, be he colored or white."

While talking about job training, Mr. Hood had this to say, "There are such few places that could meet the requirements for job training, nevertheless, we have a few veterans on job training, but those few are all white. As you can see, this is a small area, and it offers little or nothing, as far as job training is concerned, for either colored or white veterans. The veterans' best outlook here, is the educational features offered."

When he mentioned education, I asked about vocational training in Bastrop county. To my question, Mr. Hood replied, "there isn't anything being done in the county for veterans along the lines of Vocational Training. Mr. Haynie, our county School Superintendent, said he wanted to take the veterans with a sub-high school training, but couldn't get enough of them to register for it."

When I got ready to leave, Mr. Hood got up and shook hands with me and told me that "the Negro County Agricultural Agent's Office was in the building just behind this one, and I would like for you to go and see him. His name is Mr. Sadberry." I thanked him and he said, "I am glad you came by, and if you are going to be around for awhile, come in and see me before you go."

I went to the office of Mr. A. J. Sadberry, and here we talked about the possibilities of veterans getting farm training in Bastrop county. While we were talking, Mr. Hood came in and said, "I came by to see if Mr. Tatum found you or not, because I told him I wanted him to talk with you." Mr. Sadberry offered Mr. Hood a seat, and the three of us talked sharp about veterans and their problems. Mr. Hood stayed with us about thirty minutes and left to go back to his office.

Discussing farm training with Mr. Sadberry, he disclosed that his job as Negro County Agricultural Agent, was under the direct supervision of the Texas A. & M. College with sub-office at Prairie View College at Prairie View, Texas."Of course, he said, as far as farm training is concerned, there is a definite need for it, and there are many opportunities for those men who want farm training. But, that phase of it, where veterans are concerned comes under the supervision of the County Superintendent, and the one we have here, cares nothing at all for Negroes. He has no interest in getting his own program on foot. He made one attempt to get the Vocational Training started, but didn't succeed, and I suppose it's because the boys noticed how he spoke to them which caused their lost of interest." I asked Mr. Sadberry if the veterans had any type of organization, and the answer was, "No, there is hope of organizing one, for I feel as a veteran of World War II that we could get some of the things offered if we were organized as a group." I thanked Mr. Sadberry for the time spent talking with him, and went to the office of the County School Superintendent.

As I entered Mr. Fred G. Haynie's office, his Secretary asked if there be anything she could do for me, and upon stating my mission, I asked to speak to the County School Superintendent, Mr. Haynie. Mr. Haynie was busy writing at his desk, and the Secretary either not a thoughtful person or ignored my standing intentionally, did'nt ask me to have a seat. So I stood until Mr. Haynie finally looked up and asked "What is it?" Still standing, I asked him if Vocational schools had been set up throughout the county for veterans. Looking at my letter, with an expression on his face that would'nt give one a good impression of him, he answered, "No, nothing of the kind is going on in this county. Have you talked with Mr. Hood, the County Service Officer?" I replied, "Yes, sir I have talked with him." "Well, continued Mr. Haynie, "He knows more about it than I do, and whatever he told you is the situation here, and you can take it as being authentic."

Realizing that Mr. Hood's job is that of County Service Officer for Bastrop County as well as knowing that the vocational training for veterans in this state is under the supervision of the State Board of Education, and upon noting Mr. Haynie's lack of interest, as a school Official, I asked, still standing, "Mr. Haynie, may I make one observation before leaving?" Upon his consent to listen a few minutes longer I said, "I just left Austin last week where I talked with Mr. O. A. Willman, Chairman, State Veterans' Approving Committee for School in our state, and he said, "the Vocational School will be set up and supervised by County Superintendents of each County," and that is the reason I came by to see you. When I finished making my observation, Mr. Haynie said,

"er, yes, yes, but we haven't done anything along that line in this county, but we do hope to get started if we can find enough men with a sub-high school training."

Standing in Mr. Haynie's office, I did all I could to hold back my suggestion in view of the fact that I had asked to make one observation since he seemed to be so disinterested. I was going to suggest that he, Mr. Haynie, their County School Superintendent, under whose administration many of them finished or at least attended, run an announcement in the paper that the County was offering Vocational Training under the G. I. Bill for any veteran who wants to take it and met the requirements stated in the Bill. I would have further stated that by so letting it be known, the number of veterans required to open up a school, would certainly find their way to his or Mr. Hood's office to find out how they qualify for the training. I thanked Mr. Haynie, and left believing that with the removal of such persons like himself from public office, would be an asset to the veterans.

I spent Monday contacting the persons already mentioned, and Tuesday and Wednesday, visiting juke joints and homes of veterans, in an effort to arouse their interest to get what's rightfully theirs as honorable discharged veterans. The fellows promised that they would get together and make demands for farm training, since many of them are living with their parents on farms, and seem to like or would make farming their life's work.

Manor, Texas
August 8, 1946

In small towns, veterans seem to be asleep; for they do nothing about learning of their benefits, excluding the re-adjustment allowance. Here in Manor, Texas, only a few miles east of Austin, there's no contact representative, but the veterans go to Austin to file for their allowance and other matters.

The Negro population of Manor is larger than that of the whites, according to Mrs. E. D. Taylor, Principal of Manor Training School for colored. Mrs. Taylor said, "the men are really missing the chance of becoming better farmers by leaving here to go to Austin to work in hotels as Waiters, stores, as truck drivers and janitors. My husband, Mr. F. D. Taylor, who is our Agricultural teacher, is telling them about it everyday. My husband became disgusted at times, because the veterans

don't seem to realize the value of taking advantage of the Vocational training which they need so badly. But, when he is about to become disgusted , I tell him to continue after them, and I talk with many of them myself. He is in Austin now, finding out something of the various organizations for veterans, and hopes to organize the boys here which he feels would make them more conscious of their benefits."

I asked her when he would be back, and she said"tomorrow." So I thanked her and told her I would be back and talk with him as well as offer my service in helping him to get the boys together. I left her and stopped in a Blacksmith Shop where I caught five of them sitting and talked with them, and they've promised to round their buddies up for a meeting tomorrow night. I am leaving here Saturday, for Seguin, Texas.

Sincerely,

Jewel M. Tatum

Jewel M. Tatum

JMT/lgb

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OIL WORKERS INTERNATIONAL UNION
C.I.O.
301 East Fifth Street
Fort Worth 2, Texas

10 August 1946

Mr. George L. P. Weaver, Director
National CIO Committee to Abolish Discrimination
Washington 6, D. C.

Dear Sir and Brother:

I regret very much that our organization cannot help in solving the seniority problems of the Negro veterans at the Humble Refining Company plant in Baytown, Texas. Unfortunately, this unit of the Great Standard Oil Empire is not organized as a unit of the Oil Workers International Union, CIO. Although we have made several attempts to organize the employees of this plant and to obtain bargaining relationships with the Company they have steadfastly opposed our organization. The employees now bargain to a company union. Under the circumstances and because our organization cannot bargain with the Company it will be impossible for us to intervene in behalf of negro veterans. We hope, of course, that we can correct this situation in the near future.

Sincerely and fraternally,

OIL WORKERS INTERNATIONAL UNION, CIO.

/s/ O. A. Knight

O. A. Knight, President

OAK;bb

uopwa

NATIONAL CIO COMMITTEE TO ABOLISH DISCRIMINATION

718 JACKSON PLACE, N. W.
WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

GEORGE L-P WEAVER, Director,
Telephone: EXecutive 5581

NATIONAL COMMITTEE

James B. Carey, Chairman
Willard S. Townsend, Secretary
James J. Leary
Boyd L. Wilson
Morris Muster
Harry Read
M. Hedley Stone
Geo. W. Crockett, Jr.

August 13, 1946

Mr. George S. Mitchell
Southern Regional Council
63 Auburn Avenue, N. E., Room 432
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter from Mr. O. A. Knight, President of the Oil Workers International Union, in answer to our inquiry about the situation at the Humble Refinery Company in Texas, which is self-explanatory.

We regret that nothing can be done in this situation but will appreciate being kept informed of any matters of this nature.

Sincerely yours,

George L-P Weaver

George L-P Weaver
Director

Enclosure
GLPW:as

San Marcos, Texas
August 15, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

San Marcos is that place on the map which divides the scenic hills and ranch country from fertile lands, known internationally as the cottonseed breeding area of the world. San Marcos is the "melting pot" of these distinctly different sections of this part of the state, and is the county seat of Hays County.

The population of this city is approximately 10,000 and it has a trade population of almost 35,000. The manufacturing activities include: The Lone Star Woolen Mill, processing wool and mohair, from scouring grease and wool to the finished product of 100% woolen blankets; the Tratex Corporation now filling Navy contracts for dungarees to be converted after the war into manufacturing work clothes for farmers and ranchers. The Rea Madison Company, now under government contract making army and navy barrack bags, will probably be converted into some type of civilian garment manufacturing; an oil mill making all types of products from cottonseed, soy beans and some from peanuts; the Great State Chemical Company manufactures about 30 types of products for livestock: cotton, sheep, goats, hogs, and poultry, as well as several household articles.

San Marcos offers potential industries the advantages of the lowest light and power rates in the state; a high pressure natural gasoline; approved water supply and first class shipping facilities. There are many openings for different types of business concerns, and San Marcos welcomes all persons who are interested in profitable business and satisfied living in a town with adequate churches, schools, recreation, social and civic activities, in the heart of an agricultural and ranching area.

I arrived here Monday morning at 9:30 and went to town in search for the Veterans' Contact Officer but my search was to no avail because San Marcos does not have a Veterans' Contact Representative stationed in San Marcos. The Contact Representative working in this area makes one visit once each week and talks with the veterans. After discovering that the contact representative wasn't in town I went to the USES office and talked with Mr. Joe C. Root. Mr. Root said there are approximately

seven firms in San Marcos that have been approved by the VA as on-the-job-training establishments. "There are a little better than fifty veterans in these firms as trainees," said Mr. Root. "As for men deserving the re-adjustment allowance there are between 150 and 200," continued Mr. Root. The USES office aids the veterans by disseminating to them all information possible that might assist them in re-adjusting themselves to civilian life.

At the County Courthouse, as I walked to the second floor, I noticed a sign which read "Veterans Vocational Training" and I went into the office to see Mr. Jack Sledge but unfortunately Mr. Sledge was out and I went back four times in two days and still couldn't catch him in. Not being successful in seeing Mr. Sledge I talked with Mr. R. L. Bunting, County School Superintendent. Mr. Bunting, a member of the Southern Interracial Commission, said, "I am for equality of all men and have been working with different racial groups for years. I see to it that the Negro veterans get the same treatment as do other veterans". While talking with him about vocational training he said, "A few weeks ago we organized our vocational program and on that same night I had Mr. Sledge to speak to the Negro veterans in order that they may know of the type of training being offered for all veterans. We are looking forward to organizing classes in trades and industry so as to give the veterans what they want. San Marcos is an agricultural area but not many of the Negro veterans seem to have any interest in agricultural training so we are trying to encourage them to do something else if they don't want agriculture".

When I left Mr. Bunting I went by to see Rev. J. L. Franks, pastor of Bethel Baptist Church. The veterans have been meeting at the Bethel Baptist Church and Rev. Franks has been with them as well as encouraging them to take advantage of the opportunities offered them. Because of this push and interest of Rev. Franks the veterans have organized a group known as the "Negro Veterans Council". The primary objective of the council is to assist veterans in every way possible. The veterans seem to have interest in community development but nothing outstanding has been accomplished as yet.

At San Marcos I also talked with Mr. T. B. Johns, a Negro business man and owner of the Owl Service Station at 184 South Guadalupe Street. Mr. Johns has no veterans working as trainees because of the small volume of business but, said he, "if the business grows I'll get two or three veterans". He is willing to work with Mr. Bunting, Mr. Root, Rev. Frank and the veterans of Hays County to the best end of the veterans.

<u>Seguin, Texas, August 12, 1946</u>: Seguin, Texas, the County Seat of Guadalupe County, is bounded by the broad, winding Guadalupe Rive on the south, and the rich block lands of the famous Guadalupe County farms to the norht, the attractions of Seguin as the ideal home city is clearly evident.

Seguin offers little to be desired from an educational and religious standpoint. Aside from its grade and high schools, Seguin has one Negro College which today is undergoing renovation so as to open its doors to the many veterans who are desiring education as honorable discharged veterans. At present Guadalupe College is not open and hasn't been for the past several years but plans are being made for its opening sometime in the late fall of this school session.

At the County Courthouse I talked with Mr. L. T. Morawitz, County Service Officer. Mr. Morawitz said that the greater portion of the veterans are entering his office for letters of eligibility to enter school. Said he, "our farm training program would be a fine thing for our veterans but it seems to be difficult to get started because the veterans who farmed before going into the service seem to have developed new interests and are leaving this area, with all of its farm opportunities, to go to larger cities in search for jobs or to attend various schools".

I also talked with Mr. Jack A. Holden, Contact Representative of the Veterans Administration for ten counties, while at the County Courthouse. After explaining to Mr. Holden my work throughout Texas he said, "Mr. Tatum, I am sorry I can't be of any assistance to you and the reason is because I've just received this job a few days ago and I don't feel that I would be doing justice to you if I were to give you facts which I am sure wouldn't be correct, but I am sure we'll meet somewhere again the near future and I can be of more service to you. Since being employed I have been setting up offices in the ten counties and haven't had a chance to know just what is going on but when we meet again I'll be able to give you some information you want". Mr. Holden is working out of the Regional Office at San Antonio and can be reached through correspondence at the San Antonio Regional Office.

Leaving the Courthouse I met and talked with Mr. Clifford Hodge, a promising young Negro veteran of Seguin. In talking with him I asked if the veterans had an organization and he said that there wasn't one but the fellows were talking about getting together. I asked him if he would go around with me and see some of the veterans and see can't we get an organization started tonight. We met approximately 15 veterans and asked them to pass the word on to their friends. That night at 8 o'clock we met at Mr. Hodge's house and as late as 9:30 o'clock there were only five of the fellows present so we decided to have announcements made at each church next Sunday and make another attempt to get the veterans together. I told them I would get Mr. Morawietz to talk with them at one of their meetings so they can be well informed on changes affecting them as veterans.

Sincerely,

Jewel M. Tatum

Jewel M. Tatum

P.S. Please send me some expense sheets thanks
JMT

Field Agent

August 19, 1946

Mr. Jewel H. Tatum
2020 Cable Street
Beaumont, Texas

Dear Mr. Tatum:

You wrote me in mid-July about the refusal of the Humble Refinery around Baytown to upgrade Negroes.

I wrote in to Mr. George Weaver, director of the National CIO Committee to Abolish Discrimination, and asked him if he could do anything about it. He has written me that he has corresponded with the Oil Workers Internation Union at Fort Worth, but the president there in Texas says the Humble plant at Baytown has a company union, and the CIO has never been able to crack it. However, they hope to organize the plant in the near future.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Field Agent

August 22, 1946

Mr. Jewel M. Tatum
2020 Cable Street
Beaumont, Texas

Dear Mr. Tatum:

I suggest that you mail out these extra copies to such persons who in your judgment are most apt to get something done along this line.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Dunbar Hotel
San Antonio, Texas
August 23, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell,
Director of Veterans Services
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

Sitting in a fertile and fruitful valley is San Antonio, a city of picturesque contrasts whose location is so important that Old World Nations fought for its possessions two centuries ago.

Once a Spanish stronghold, San Antonio today is headquarters of the largest military establishment in the United States. These great military posts lend much to San Antonio's colorful atmosphere. Fort Sam Houston, where I was inducted and which occupies 3,300 acres, is headquarters for the Fourth Army and site of Brooks Hospital Center. Other large establishments in the vicinity of the city are Camp Stanley, Camp Bullis, San Antonio Quartermaster Depot, San Antonio Arsenal and Leon Springs Military Reservation.

The largest and most impressive aviation training center in the nation is Randolph Field, the West Point of the Air, located about 17 miles from San Antonio. With other fields as Alamo, Stinson, Brooks, San Antonio Personal Distribution and Kelley Field, the nation's largest air depot, all located adjacent to San Antonio, there is concentrated here the largest capital investment in aviation of any place in the world.

The history of the city is quite interesting and maybe related as briefly as follows:

> "After the Mexican revolt flared up in 1824, the Spainards were defeated and San Antonio came under the direct rule of Mexico. Mexico City was hundreds of miles away, and Mexico was torn with internal strife. The central government had little time to waste on Texas, so the governing officials at San Antonio ruled as they wished and wisdom and justice seldom attributes of these petty depots.
>
> The self-styled "Napoleon of the West", Santa Anna, president and dictator of Mexico, thinking to put an early end to the Texas unrest, marched an army of 4,000 against a small group of American colonists at Goliad. The defenders, after surrendering as prisoners of war, were all put to death. Santa Anna then turned to San Antonio and on April 21, 1836, General Sam Houston led an army of Texans against

Santa Anna at San Jacinto. The small force smashed into the Mexican General's fine army crying "Remember the Alamo, Remember Goliad", and completely routed the army, taking Santa himself prisoner.

The Texas' independence was won and the Lone Star State became a nation in its own right. Later, answering the call of blood, the Texans voted to join the Union and became part of the United States."

Modern San Antonio, with its heritage of romance and grandeur merged with the sparkling newness of the Twentieth Century, is a paradise for sight and pleasure-hungry travelers. Thousands of tourists following the bright trail of youth and beauty come each year to San Antonio. The city has no peer as a pleasure and convention city. Annually about 300 conventions are held in the city.

Crowded by the towering buildings of the downtown section are the many beautiful old structures erected about 1700 by soft-spoken priests and harsh grandees of the King of Spain. The Alamo, shrine of Texas liberty, lies dreaming in the central plaza of the city. Flanking other plazas are the San Fernando Cathedral, still the hub of Catholic worship in San Antonio, and the stern old Governor's Palace.

The mission of the early monks still stands in a half-circle about the city like christian guardians. History has marked San Antonio with its greatness.

One of San Antonio's greatest charms is lovely San Antonio River, flowing through the very heart of the business district. A colorful and unique theater has been set on the banks of this river in the busy downtown section with a stage situated on one side of the river and seats for the audience on the opposite bank. Plays and concerts are held here. Tropical plants, shrubbery and palms are found along the fertile river banks and colored lights make a picturesque scene of San Antonio River by night.

Over it has flown six proud flags--those of Spain, France, Mexico, the Republic of Texas, the Confederate States of America and the United States of America.

As the city of everlasting sunshine, San Antonio furnishes a climate where all sports and pastimes flourish. Golf, hunting, riding, racing, swimming, polo, tennis, baseball, fishing, dancing--all have their enthusiastic following.

In as much as one of Texas' five VA regional offices is located here, I began my survey at the Gilcrease Building in which is housed the regional office. As I entered the office I spotted out the information desk and stood there until my turn to be waited on. The stenographer asked me what did I want and I went through the regular procedure of making my wants known. Said she, "take a seat and as soon as Mr. Harris is through you may see him". While Mr. Harris was engaged I took a seat among the many other veterans who were waiting to be interviewed. Posing as one seeking the same information and assistance as they were, the men with whom I talked, I wanted to know

the type of response they received from the office and was told that the office gave a rather satisfactory service as far as their interests were concerned.

Sitting here talking with both, Negro and white veterans about their interest I kept an eye on Mr. Harris, so as to know when he had finished talking. Noticing the person with whom he was talking getting up as if to leave, I got up and went over to his desk. As I walked up Mr. Harris said, "William G. Harris". Said I, Tatum, and how are you Mr. Harris"? and proceeded to make my purpose known. After making my purpose known to Mr. Harris he said, "I am registration officer here and I wouldn't have the information you want, but you can go to the second floor of the Post Office and see Mr. McLean, Chief Rehabilitation and Training Officer for this regional office. I thanked Mr. Harris and left for the Post Office.

When I went to the Post Office Mr. McLean was holding a meeting with his staff and his secretary asked me to come back within forty-five minutes. Mr. McLean's office occupies three rooms on the second floor of the Post Office and in the reception room sits three ladies and a gentleman, Mr. McLean's assistant. I went back within forty-five minutes and the conference was still going on. On my third trip to see Mr. McLean, one of the secretaries told Mr. McLean's assistant that I had come to see Mr. McLean. The gentleman called me to his desk and asked me to have a seat. I thanked him and told him why I had come by. The gentleman said, "Well, I think my chief is in a better position to give you the information you want. Just a minute I'll see if he can talk with you". He got up and went into Mr. McLean's office, taking with him my letter and after explaining to him why I came by called me in. When I went in the gentleman said, "Mr. McLean this is Mr. Tatum", and left.

Mr. George D. McLean asked, "Mr. Tatum have a seat"? I took a seat next to his desk and here we talked for more than four hours. During our discourse Mr. McLean said, "Mr. Tatum, I can't give you any statistical data because I am not authorized to give out any information but you can get the information with regards to job, farm and institutional training from Mr. George Betts, Assistant Manager of our regional office. Continued Mr. McLean, "Mr. Tatum, there's one thing I can say that every veteran who comes to our office gets the same attention regardless to his race. If I were authorized to give you statistical data about job, farm or institutional training I wouldn't be able to give you a break-down according to race because we don't discriminate our records in this office. Of course, I am sure if we were to undertake such a task we would find that there are more whites on job training than colored which shouldn't be, but we don't have anything to do with employment policies of industries. But, as far as a veteran coming in here to see me or any one of my staff, that veteran is treated as a veteran and not as a Negro or a white veteran. Whenever I talk to a veteran, being one myself, I talk to him as if two veterans had met on the street and talk. When a veteran walks into my office he is made to feel that he is just talking with another veteran and many times they come back and say they like to come here because of the fine treatment they receive.

As our conversation when on Mr. McLean sighted several cases of Negro veterans expressing themselves about various things and said that he encourages them to feel completely free in expressing themselves. "By making the veteran feel free to express himself I can get a better picture of the problem he faces and on the basis of what he says I can be of a greater assistance to him in helping get what he wants. Sometimes I can get what the veteran wants and again after trying hard I can't, but we do make some effort outside of telling the veteran his rights", said Mr. McLean. When I got ready to leave Mr. McLean said, "Mr. Tatum, I want you to go by the Gilcrease Building and see Mr. Betts for he really is a fine man and tell him that I sent you to see him." I thanked Mr. McLean for the fine way he had received me and also for referring me to Mr. Betts and left to return to the Gilcrease Building.

As I entered the vertex entrance of the triangular shaped Gilcrease Building I looked the directory over and over for the name, floor and room of Mr. George Betts but the name was not listed so I pressed the elevator button and waited for the elevator. Upon entering the elevator I inquired for the whereabouts of Mr. Betts and the Negro veteran elevator operator carried me to the third floor of the building and showed me the office of Mr. Betts.

The three story triangular shaped Gilcrease Building is used to house the office of the regional office of the Veterans Administration exclusively. Stepping into the office, with its soft plush rugs and more than 40 mahogany desks, with approximately 15 fans to keep the office cool, I entered and went to the information desk and to the left stood Mr. Betts at a book shelf. As no one was at the information desk Mr. Betts asked me if he could help me. Standing at the book shelf I told him what I wanted and he said, "go right into my office and have a seat, I'll be with you in a few minutes". I went in and his secretary asked, "May I help you"? I told her that the gentleman at the book shelf told me to come in and have a seat. Said she, "fine, have a seat at his desk". I thanked her and took a seat. Another of the stenographers, believing she had seen me before, asked if I had gone to school in Chicago. I replied, "no, I attended shool here in Texas". The lady continued talking so I took advantage of the opportunity, believing I would be able to get some of the information I wanted but unfortunately she had been working there only two weeks and knew a very little about the inside operations, nevertheless, we enjoyed an interesting chat with each other while I was waiting for the gentleman to come to his office.

When the gentleman came in he said, extending his hand and smiling, "I am Mr. Betts" and I said, "Tatum, Mr. Betts and showed him my letter. We both took a seat and began our conversation about veterans with respect to job, farm and institutional training. Although Mr. Betts appeared to be the fine man Mr. McLean said he was, I was not going to take any chance by asking direct questions about some of the things I wanted to know, for fear he might say he was only the assistant manager of the office and not authorized to give out such information but that such could be secured from the Dallas headquarters. Thus, to avoid an answer of this kind, I used a different approach in seeking the information I wanted relative to the strength of his staff and the personnel in general.

During our most enjoyable conversation I said to Mr. Betts, "Mr. Betts, with the size of this building and all of it being used by the regional office you must have a staff larger than the one at Houston". "Yes, we are a little larger, we have approximately 580 persons employed excluding our maintenance help but I don't like to think of our office nor staff being larger but I like to think of it as being efficient" and here we both smiled. While talking with him he got a report his office made to the Dallas Headquarters and discussed it with me. The report consisted of statistical data on the various cases they've handled during the month of June.

With a knowledge of the strength of the regional office being all white I asked Mr. Betts if Negroes had ever applied for jobs as counselors, interviewers or clerks and to this question he answered, "no, as far as I know we haven't had any Negroes to seek employment for jobs you've just named". I am quite certain that the 7 or 8 Negro men and two Negro women working as elevator operators, janitors and lady attendants in the ladies lounge were persons who sought employment at the regional office's headquarters and with this belief I am also of the opinion that several qualified Negroes too, sought employment in the regional office for jobs as named above.

Due to the general impression I received all during my discourse with Mr. Betts I don't think I would be justified if I were to say that his statement, relative to Negroes not seeking employment as counselors, interviewers and clerks, was one of little truth and yet I can't conceive of a city like San Antonio, where a fair portion of the Negroes are intelligent and with college training didnot seek ~~a job of this kind on the~~ to become so employed. To me, the lack of interest in seeking a job of this kind on the part of San Antonio's intelligent Negroes does not sound reasonable. Without any knowledge of Negroes seeking such jobs I refused, because of the lack of facts, to challenge Mr. Betts's statement and as yet I haven't been able to discover if or not Negroes actually sought to be so employed.

At the close of our conversation I thanked Mr. Betts and he said, "Mr. Tatum, I've enjoyed talking with you and if you should need any more assistance come right on up to my office and if I am not here, take a seat and wait for me".

At ten o'clock the next morning I went to the County Courthouse to talk with Mr. Harry L. Miller, County Service Officer. Mr. Miller said, after stating my purpose to him, "Mr. Tatum, I don't have anything much to do now that the regional office is located here. Since it opened up here just about all of the veterans are going right over to the regional office so, you see I don't have anything much to do. Of course, I do my best whenever I am called upon by some of the veterans but that's seldom. I have been, for the past several weeks, going out in search for placements for veterans who want job training and I've been giving more service to the veteran through the regional office that way". I asked him if he had been successful in finding jobs for all veterans, meaning Negroes and whites and he said, "Yes, I have but job finding is like looking for a needle in the hay-stack. If you care for more information about job training I can refer you to Mr. Charles H. Berg, who takes care

of veterans' problems just across the street at the USES Building and he is a nice man to talk with". I thanked him kindly and left. But, before leaving I asked him if he would be willing to work with a committee composed of Negroes and whites, the interest of which would be to do as he has already been doing and that is seeking placements for veterans. To this question he exclaimed, "Why! yes, I'll be too glad to do so". I told him I would let him know the person interested in the same and let him know.

Going from the office of Mr. Miller I stopped to talk with Mr. R. W. May, County School Superintendent. Unfortunately Mr. May was out of town and the lady in his office said she knew little or nothing of what had been done in the way of setting up vocational schools for veterans. Said she, "I do know that Mr. May held a meeting in this office about a month and a half ago with a few of our vocational teachers but as I was not in on the meeting I don't know what was discussed. However, Mr. Gray will be back within a week and you may come back and talk with him". I then went to the office of the County Agriculture Agent and here again I was disappointed for he, too, was away. Talking with his stenographer, Miss Louise Faber, I learned that the Negroes represented only 7 per cent of the farming population in Bexar County of which San Antonio is the County seat. As for farm trainees Miss Faber says, "there have only been a few to come into our office".

Just across the street from the County Courthouse sits a two-story white stuco building in which is located the office of the United States Employment Service. Here, as I entered a lady sitting at the information desk asked me what did I want. I told her I wanted to speak to Mr. Berg. She then told me to step right in to the lrft. I went in and noticed a sign reading "Veterans" but couldn't see anyone standing behind the counter so, I walked to my left and at the door of a closed office a gentleman questioned me as to my desires. He offered me a seat and I told him Mr. Miller, the County Service Officer, had referred me to Mr. Berg. Said the gentleman, "Mr. Berg has been suffering with hay fever and if I can help you I'll be glad to". Not wanting to impose on Mr. Berg, since he was somewhat ill, I began talking with the gentleman and as I began shooting questions the gentleman said, "Mr. Tatum, come with me, I suppose you will have to see Mr. Berg". I followed him into Mr. Berg's office and he introduced me to Mr. Berg and left.

After having been introduced to Mr. Charles H. Berg, he offered me a seat and realizing his condition I said, Mr. Berg, I just learned that you are suffering with hay fever and I want to make my inquiry rather brief because I know how one feels during this kind of weather with hay fever". This statement had a psychological affect on Mr. Berg for he knew that I realized the misery he suffered with his ailment so, through this statement I won his admiration and finally ended up spending three hours with Mr. Berg.

Our conversation began on veterans and he disclosed that 50,000 veterans had come back to Bexar County and of this number 3,000 are getting the re-adjustment allowance. He further disclosed that a vast majority of the veterans were pouring into the office in search for employment and if employment couldn't be given the veterans would

seek the allowance. "I have been noticing the veterans as they come here and most of them really want to work. If, however, a man gets more than ten weeks of his re-adjustment allowance I consider that man to be a rider of the allowance but we don't have too many veterans of this kind. Here, we do our best to match the man to the job regardless to his race and we even go as far as to encourage employers to at least give the veteran a try, if he appears to be indignant because the veteran is a Negro. In other words I've been taking it upon myself to interceed for the Negro veterans because I believe in economic and political freedom for all men. Thus far I have been successful in getting quite a few Negro veterans on jobs where they would have ordinarily been placed as trainees, " said Mr. Berg.

As he talked I constantly observed him and noticed he suffering from hay fever so, I made several attempts to leave but each time Mr. Berg refused to let me leave by saying, "Oh! that's alright Mr. Tatum, this isn't the first time I've had this fever. Because I enjoyed hearing him talk I forced myself, at his insistance, to stay and listen. He brought out in his talk that "of the three groups, Negroes, whites and Mexicans, comprising the population of San Antonio that the work in the city seems to be divided in that each group seems to be working at jobs for which that group is best fitted. Of course, both minority groups, Negroes and Mexicans, are making progress in all phases of work. Here, in this office, we have three Mexican girls employed as typists but we don't have any Negroes yet. If the office stays under federal control I am sure we'll have Negroes employed but the office is to change over to state control in November and I don't know what the situation will be then. Before you leave I am going to take you around so you can see how we operate," said Mr. Berg.

All during our conversation we discussed problems of race relations from all points of view and as I got ready to leave Mr. Berg got up and said, "come with me and I'll show you around the office". I went with Mr. Berg from office to office and was introduced as "Mr. Tatum of the Southern Regional Council who is working in the interest of veterans throughout Texas".

After going all over the office we went to a building just behind the main office, which is also a part of the office and here I was also introduced to the head men in this outer building. Mr. Berg, as well as I, noticed as I walked in, that the part which is under state control has signs reading, "Colored" and "White" but said Mr. Berg, "over here you don't see such signs up for there is no discrimination on this side, which is controlled by the federal government. A Mr. William F. Hines, a gentleman to whom I was introduced, myself and Mr. Berg, stood at the counter and talked about everything that relates itself to problems of minority groups. When we left Mr. Hines shook hands with me and said, "Mr. Tatum, if you don't think Negroes are treated as others who come here, come back one day disguised as one seeking employment and you'll see that they get the same respect as others who enter this office". We went back into the main office and stopped in the hallway where Mr. Berg and I talked for another 30 minutes. After my constant insistance, realizing Mr. Berg was ill, we finally had a strong

clasping of the hands and said bye to each other with Mr. Berg asking me to come around anytime I am in San Antonio.

Thursday, August 22, I went to the office of the San Antonio Register, a Negro Weekly Newspaper, owned and published by Mr. Velmo Bellinger, son of the late Mr. Charles Bellinger who during his lifetime was the most influential man in San Antonio among Negroes and whites. The late Mr. Bellinger is responsible for a tremendous amount of the improvements in San Antonio. Some few years ago editors of Liberty Magazine, learning of his influence in the Alamo City, published the history of his life in which they mentioned what an asset he was to San Antonio. I didn't get a chance to talk with his son, but I talked with the editor of the San Antonio Register, Mr. U. J. Andrews. Mr. Andrews, being busily engaged at the office of the Register, knows little about what's being accomplished for veterans of San Antonio. He said that at one time San Antonio had a veterans organization but it has been abandoned. Said he, "Negro and white veterans are planning to get together and form an organization or chapter of the AVC but this hasn't been done yet". The San Antonio Register has two veterans as trainees. Mr. Andrews says he will be glad to give space each week for articles pertaining to veterans and will do anything else necessary to aid the veterans.

At Saint Phillip's Junior College I talked with Mrs. Gwendolyn Dickerson, a former classmate and long-time friend and who is Business Manager at St. Phillip Junior College. Mrs. Dickerson states "the enrollment of veterans attending St. Phillips is 114 and with the housing units under construction our September enrollment should reach 250 or more". The college offers, beside its regular liberal arts subjects, a course in tailoring and cooking. As soon as other trades are demanded and teachers are available more trade courses will be offered.

San Antonio has a barber college, Alamo Barber College, which has an enrollment of 98 veterans. Its manager, Mr. Longfellow Woddy, a veteran, states that no veterans organization has been formed but that veterans have been thinking about becoming a part of the National Organization known as American Veterans Committee.

Others I talked with were: Mr. Sam Woods, funeral director and assistant manager of O. J. Carter Undertaking Company and Mr. Frederick Taylor, local business man of San Antonio.

San Antonio, one of the most beautiful and interesting spots in the world, is a city every American should see. Once you have visited this gracious city, its memory always will be with you.

Sincerely,

Jewel M. Tatum

Jewel M. Tatum

Anahuac, Texas
August 30, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Service
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

At a time convenient to you, a letter to the following persons for the fine way in which I was received while in San Antonio, Texas, will be appreciated;

Mr. Charles H. Berg, Counsultant
U. S. E. S. Office
San Antonio, Texas

Mr. George Betts, Assistant Manager
Regional Office - Veterans Administration
San Antonio, Texas

Mr. George D. McLean
Chief Rehabilitation and Training Officer
Regional Office, V. A.
U. S. Post Office
San Antonio, Texas

written
9/3/46

Sincerely yours,

Jewel M. Tatum

Jewel M. Tatum

Field Agent

September 3, 1946

Mr. Jewel M. Tatum
2020 Cable Street
Beaumont, Texas

Dear Mr. Tatum:

Thank you for your report of August 23. Even though those guys you go to see seem unyielding, the effect of your visit will be long lasting and they will get better quicker for it.

I am glad that in each city you visit you inquire carefully into its history and economics. It helps you to place what you find. Some skeleton of that helps me too, but you could save yourself some typing trouble by giving me the skeleton about that end of it.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Field agent

September 10, 1946

Mr. Jewel H. Tatum
2020 Cable Street
Beaumont, Texas

Dear Mr. Tatum:

It is good to have your report of September 6th.

You are working along just the right lines.

Keep in mind that at some stage I hope you can get organized a Negro veterans' council in Texas.

I have vague plans for coming to Texas October 8,9, and 10, just to visit with you and lay plans.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Dickinson, Texas
September 6, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

While enroute to Galveston I stopped in three cities, namely: Lake City, San Leon and Dickinson, Texas. Among these three small towns Dickinson is the largest. The citizens are employed for the most part at military reservations in and around these towns.

After meeting several veterans I felt, as a result of talking with them, that I should concentrate the greater portion of this week around these three towns. The veterans impressed me as men who are backward and not quite well informed on their existing rights as honorably discharged men.

Perhaps the most enlightened veteran it was my good fortune to meet was a Mr. Clarence Guyton, Jr., who has made several efforts to get the veterans of the three small towns together to organize themselves as a group so as to secure and disseminate information concerning them as veterans. Mr. Guyton siad he had given an affair at a small resturant and dance hall owned and operated by his sister for the purpose of getting the veterans together. He did not succeed in getting the veterans interested as he had hoped. I asked him if he thought it would be possible to get them together again and he said it was. I told him that I would remain in the city a few days and perhaps we could get something started with the assistance of some of the older citizens.

The next day posters were placed in each Negro business place and word was passed from one to the other that there would be another veterans ball for the recently discharged men. Before the affair started the veterans were gathered in a room and I talked with them for twenty minutes relative to their benefits and the value

a veterans organization. I suggested to the veterans that they could affiliate themselves with the white post, as it is my belief that this would tend to strengthen the relationship between Negroes and whites, rather than organizing a club of their own without any connection with whites of their city.

In localities where there is no interracial veterans organization as the Veterans United for Action in Beaumont, Texas or chapters of the AVC I usually suggest, upon request of several veterans to whom I sell the idea of the value and need of a veteran's organization, that they become a part of the local American Legion Post of their city. Having been present at two Negro legion post meetings I've observed that from one to two white were in attendance aside from the veterans cantact representative who consented to talk with them about their problems. Of course, the whites present were not members of the Negro Post but represented the white post. I am of the opinion that with such visits of white legion members at the Negro legion post meetings will mean much in the long run towards betterment of the present relationship between whites and Negroes.

In this area the contact representative comes for three days every other week and it so happened that this was not his week at Dickinson. I made several attempts to contact the service officer for the white legion post so as to get him to be present with the veterans but such efforts were vain. However, I talked with them and made mention of the aforementioned suggestion and the same seemed to have met their approval. I took no active part in the affairs but remained so as to talk with the veterans individually for I felt by so doing I could stamp the idea of organizing themselves into their minds and my talk with them as a group would not be a fruitless one.

I talked with Mr. W. N. Bailey (white) who is Texas' unemployment representative for this area. He, too, visits the city every other week and this happened to be his week in Dickinson. He said that more than three fourths of the veterans were receiving the adjustment allowance in view of the fact that there are a few opportunities for employment in this area. He assured me that he would cooperate with any program I have to aid the veterans in bettering themselves.

Professor J. O. Williams, principal of the Dunbar High School was out of town so I talked with his wife, Mrs. Senora Williams, also a teacher at the same school. She said that her husband was thinking about rounding the veterans up and getting them to take advantage of the educational benefits under the G. I. Bill but he has been rather busy and hasn't had a chance to get around to it. I discussed with her at length the opportunities the veterans have for learning various trades and left her a copy of the form from your office dated 22 August relative to securing temporary educational facilities for secondary schools and colleges. Realizing that there are a number of veterans in this area and their school offers no type of trade courses I talked with her about the

possibility of various trades being offered. She thinks will be the solution to their problem in dealing with the veterans. When I reach Galveston I shall bring this matter to the attention of the County School Superintendent. Mrs. Williams says that she and her husband will do anything possible to further the cause of veterans in their immediate area. She also said she will get with Mr. Guyton and some of the instructors at their school and see that the veterans do something constructive.

Sincerely,

Jewel M. Tatum

Field agent

September 20, 1946

Dear Mr. Tatum,

Many thanks for the Galveston letter.

I took the liberty of writing the Council's only Galveston member, and telling him that you had got a movement underway with the Negro community for a vocational school, and would he please do what he could to help with the people he knows.

His name, Rabbi Henry Cohen, 1920 Broadway, Galveston, Texas. You might call on him next time you are in Galveston.

Very truly,

GSM

Field Agent

September 26, 1946

Mr. Jewel M. Tatum
2020 Cable Street
Beaumont, Texas

Dear Mr. Tatum:

Next time you are in Dallas it would be well for you to call on my friend, Lee Osbirn, head of the Farm Security Administration for Texas and Oklahoma. His building is on Parry Avenue at Commerce Street.

Here is a copy of a letter he sent me.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Hearne, Texas
September 27, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

It is a most interesting thing to learn of the conditions of my people in Texas and while it is interesting to actually see the existing conditions, it is also heart-rending to know, that as far advanced as the Negro is, there are still large numbers of them who are victims of plantation owners.

The condition mentioned above is to be found in what is known as "Brazos Bottom", where the Negroes constitute sixty per cent of the entire population in each town in this area. Although this condition is existing, there are a number of good schools on the plantations. It is said that a well-dressed Negro can only visit the plantations for a few hours for if he were to stay a few days the owners of the plantations would believe that he is enticing the Negroes to leave, which would be detrimental to his economic status.

According to Dr. P. E. Madock, a Negro dentist of Palestine, Texas, who comes to Hearne two days a week, the situation is improving quite a bit. Such improvement is due to the interest Dr. Madock has in the betterment of Negroes along with the co-operation of a few of the Negro teachers and a minister.

As we began to talk about the veterans Dr. Madock said, "It is pathetic to see how negligent the Negro veterans have become about working. It is true that after deductions have been taken out of their pay that they have from one to two dollars more than the allowance but they feel that a dollar or two more than they get for not working is nothing. They never stop to think how shiftless they are becoming and the opinions that are being formed by employers about them. I've had a number of white people to come into my office in Palestine and here and ask why the Negro veterans won't work. Mr. Tatum, this is what is happening in this area. Mexicans are being brought here from Mexico to do the work offered the Negro and when the fifty-two weeks are out the Negro veteran won't be able to get employment

because he's being surplanted by the people brought here who are working for less wages than the Negro veterans would get if they would work. They don't want to go to school and they don't want to work".

After more than thirty minutes of talking, Dr. Madock said, "Mr. Tatum, come with me, I want to show you something". I got up and followed Dr. Madock to the pool room next door to his office. Continued Dr. Madock, "see--you don't see a chair vacant and if this were Saturday they would be in line waiting for a chance to gamble and that is how they are spending their time and allowance". When we went back to Dr. Madock's office I asked him if he would go in with me in the morning, before the games got to far on the way, and I would talk with the fellows. This I did and the response was quite favorable.

In the afternoon on the same day Dr. Madock carried me to the High School to see the principal but he was out of town. I talked with Professor E. L. Antwine, vocational agriculture teacher. Professor Antwine informed me that the principal had gone with the County Superintendent in search for an instructor for the vocational training that is being offered. "The vocational training for the veterans was scheduled to begin when school opened two weeks ago", said Professor Antwine, "but we haven't been able to get a teacher". Mr. Antwine's work is directly with the boys in school and a special teacher is being sought to work with veterans. Professor Antwine said he wasn't a veteran but is willing to do anything he can to help. He is going to work with Dr. Madock and Mrs. Carrie Mack, Dr. Madock's secretary and others, in interesting the veterans to do something constructive.

On our way from the school Dr. Madock saw a group of fourteen young men who happened to be veterans sitting in front of a package store. Here we stopped and both of us talked with them for an indefinite period. During my talk I suggested that they organize themselves so as to keep abrest of changes that would probably be made and which would affect them as veterans. Here, once again, I suggested that they set up an American Legion Post. Dr. Madock said he would help the men get started and see about a charter for them. I will write to Dr. Madock frequently, and also the men, and I shall come back here on the day that the Contact Representative of the V A visits this town.

Calvert, Texas, September 27, 1946

At Calvert, which is only a few miles from Hearne, I talked with Professor W. D. Spigner, principal of the Calvert High School. When we began to talk about vocational training Professor Spigner brought Professor C. B. Jefferson, vocational agriculture teacher, in and the three of us talked about rounding up the veterans and getting them interested in

the training.

At the school the next afternoon I talked with twelve veterans and they agreed to take advantage of the vocational training. I also made mention of a veterans organization and learned that the men had a social club composed of veterans only. The sad thing about the club is that its purpose is to function for social entertainment only. I put in a word about a legion post and one of them said, "we wanted to organize one but we don't want to operate under the white post". Here I attempted to point out the advantage of a legion post from the standpoint of race relation. I told them that the white post would not predominate their organization but would be too glad to work with them as a legion post for such had been my findings in other places I've been. The suggestion was accepted and the men said they would think about it.

I also talked with Mr. L. R. Pertis, owner-manager of the Palace Drug Store. He says he'll work with the men--Professors Spigner and Jefferson to the best end of the veterans.

Sincerely,

Jewel M. Tatum

Jewel M. Tatum

Conroe, Texas
October 4, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

Here, at Conroe, Texas, I talked with Mr. V. K. Stewart, County School Superintendent, about the vocational training for veterans of Montgomery County. Mr. Stewart disclosed that the program has already gone into effect and that there are approximately 75 veterans taking farm training.

Montgomery County is a saw mill and farming section with most of its 4,287 inhabitants being engaged in either saw mill or farm work.

In talking with Mr. B. T. Prince, Negro County Agricultural Agent, I learned that he, too, has been giving much of his time to the veterans of this county. He says he's here working with the Contact Representative of the Veterans Administration in setting up vocational agricultural schools throughout the county. "We, referring to himself, the county superintendent and contact representative, "have four such schools already in operation and they are located here, Willis, Dobbins and Magnolia, Texas. Mr. Prince says he'll do anything we may ask him and at anytime.

While discussing vocational training with Mr. Tom Adams, Contact Representative of the Veterans Administration, he made mention of the vocational agricultural schools. Said he, "For those who don't want this training we are attempting to locate other schools for them". I gave him a list of some of the trade schools and he said he would tell the men about them as well as see if he can help them enter. I asked him if he had talked with the veterans as a group and he said, "Yes, I talk with them incessantly and each time a change is made in the Veterans Administration I meet with them and keep them informed".

I talked with Mr. C. L. King, Post Commander of the American Legion Post, and he says that the post is doing everything possible to help the veterans. "Mr. Adams", said he, "talks with us as a group about once every two months".

When I left Mr. King, I talked with seven veterans sitting around a barber shop and pointed out to them the value of joining the Legion as well as taking advantage of the G. I. Bill of Rights. The men seemed to have been very interested during my talk and the response was that they would cease loafing around and do something worthwhile.

Sincerely,

Jewel M. Tatum

Jewel M. Tatum

Field Agent

October 7, 1946

Mr. Jewel M. Tatum
2020 Cable Street
Beaumont, Texas

Dear Mr. Tatum:

I am working on other things and cannot get to Texas this time.

I continue to enjoy your good reports.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Conroe, Texas
October 4, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

I am contacting persons relative to organizing a Negro Veterans' Council in Texas as mentioned in your letter of September 10.

On the 8, 9, and 10 of this month I shall be at the Moreland Branch Y. M. C. A. at the corner of Flora and Ball Streets, Dallas, Texas. I shall look forward to seeing you.

Yours very truly,

Jewel M. Tatum

Jewel M. Tatum

Field Agent

October 10, 1946

Mr. Jewel M. Tatum
2020 Cable Street
Beaumont, Texas

Dear Mr. Tatum:

The next time you are in Houston you might call on Mr. Carter Wesley of the Houston Informer, 2418 Leland St. He came to the Executive Board meeting of the Council yesterday, and expressed an interest in having an opportunity to talk with you about your work.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Moreland Branch Y. M. C. A.
2700 Flora Street
Dallas, Texas
October 12, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

I arrived in Dallas one week too late, for had I been here last week I would have had a chance to see Mr. Joseph D. Albright, Special Assistant to the Administrator of VA in Washington, D. C. Apparently Mr. Albright's visit to Texas was prompted by your letter to him of July 19, in which you cited the situation of the Regional Office in Houston relative to the employment of qualified Negroes as interviewers, counsellors, and contact representatives.

Despite the fact that I talked at length with four officials of the VA I wasn't, without a direct question of Mr. Albright's opinion of employing Negroes for jobs as named above, able to ascertain any information with regard to this matter. Nevertheless, I am of the opinion that, with pressure from the veterans organizations here, there will be appointments made in the near future. I also feel that appointments of Negroes will be forth coming with constant propaganda by veterans organizations with respect to the nature of the situation of the VA's present policy of employing qualified Negroes to serve as aforementioned and the pointing out the value to the VA by having Negroes so employed.

I am living in hope that the Negro Veterans Council, which I contemplate organizing in the near future, will concentrate its efforts in the use of strategy in bringing pressure on governmental agencies to employ competent Negroes for all types of work. This, I have expressed to veterans organizations in localities where I have gone and shall continue to make them conscious of the need of bringing pressure on such agencies, for I feel it is definitely necessary to raise the economic status of the Negro in Texas. I firmly believe if the constant application of pressure by veterans groups prove to be fruitful, it will become even less difficult for the same organizations to get industry to employ Negroes for jobs which are now barred to them.

Among the four VA officials with whom I talked was Mr. D. A. Hiller, Assistant Deputy Administrator for the #10 Branch of the VA. During our conversation Mr. Hiller made mention of Mr. Albright's visit and said, "Mr. Albright seems to be well satisfied with the situation as it is". Realizing that there are competent Negroes in Texas who desire employment as contact representatives, interviewers, clerks and other positions, and not having met Mr. Albright I refused to challenge Mr. Hiller's statement. However, I have my opinion about Mr. Albright's satisfaction of the VA in regard to employing Negroes.

Mr. Hiller disclosed that a survey had been made to determine the number of Negro veterans entering veteran administration offices for help. "The survey", said he, "revealed that the number of Negro veterans visiting contact representatives was not a sufficient number to employ a Negro representative. If the Negro contact representative did not receive enough calls he would be idle a greater portion of the day. Thus, it doesn't seem necessary for each office to have a Negro contact man. If a Negro were working as a contact representative along with whites and he didn't have a client when a white veteran enters, the white veteran wouldn't think of going to a Negro contact officer with his problem, so the Negro would just be there while the whites would be doing the greater portion of the work".

It has long since been my belief that in talking with an individual it is necessary to agree with your client at some point in the conversation in order to make him believe he has made a worthwhile point and to further encourage him to talk. At the close of Mr. Heller's statements on the survey made I said, quite reservedly, "Yes, Mr. Hiller, I agree that such might be true in localities where Negroes do not constitute between 40 and 50 percent of the city's population but the same would not necessarily be true here in Dallas, Houston, Port Arthur, Beaumont, Ft. Worth and other cities where the population of Negroes is from 50 to 60 percent. In these larger cities the Negro contact representative wouldn't 'just be there while the whites do the greater portion of the work'". And for smaller areas I said, "for smaller cities and towns Negro intracity contact representatives could be used". To these statements Mr. Hiller said, "er, er yes, that's true but this office does not have anything to do with employment of representatives, interviewers, and clerks. The employment of representatives, interviewers, clerks, etc. is left up to the regional office managers and we are only supervisors for the five regional offices in the #10 Branch".

Mr. Hiller finally carried me to the public relations office where I was introduced to Mr. William N. Sewell, Director of Public Relations for the #10 Branch of the VA. After introducing me and giving a general idea of my work in Texas, Mr. Hiller

left and went back to his office. Mr. Sewell offered me a seat and began as only a true southerner can, by asking, "what kin I'se do for you? Jes lemme knows what I'se kin do fo you and I'se be too glad to help you". As Mr. Sewell talked I said to myself, here's a man who thinks he knows Negro psychology so, while in Rome I do as the Romans do but use a bit of discretion in playing the part of a Roman in Rome. After cracking a few jokes, which didn't take as he no doubt anticipated, we got down to business.

At the present time I am gathering material for a general report on the status of the Negro in Texas which I shall submit to you later. In order to complete my report I needed statistical data and this is why I asked to see Mr. Sewell. Mr. Sewell wrote down the questions and said he would mail the figures to me in a few days. When I got ready to leave he and Mr. Hiller asked that I come back and see them and anything they can do they will be too glad to do.

When I left the Santa Fe Building at 1114 Commerce Street, where I talked with Mr. Hiller and Mr. Sewell, I went to the United States Agricultural Building, at the corner of Parrey and Commerce, to see Mr. Lee Ozbirn, FSA for Texas and Oklahoma. As I entered the building I observed that a Negro stenographer was sitting in an office and I asked where Mr. Ozbirn's office was. After entering the spacious reception room where three persons were waiting, and six after I entered, to see Mr. Ozbirn I knew he was quite busy and govened my stay with him accordingly. As I entered we shook hands and he offered me a seat. Before entering Mr. Ozbirn's office his stenographer told all who were waiting that our time with Mr. Ozbirn would be limited because Mr. Ozbirn had a meeting to attend and after taking a seat I told Mr. Ozbirn you had suggested that I come by and see him. Mr. Ozbirn explained how busy he was and the meeting he had to attend and asked if I would like to talk with Mr. John H. Williams, the Negro who is consultant, and I told him I would be too glad to talk with Mr. Williams. Mr. Ozbirn carried me to Mr. Williams' office and introduced me and said, "Mr. Tatum, before you leave come back by and see me".

In talking with Mr. Williams he disclosed that the farm training of veterans wasn't serving the veterans need as it had been anticipated. "The cause", says Mr. Williams, "is due to the inadequate facilities being used as well as the lack of prepared instructors". Mr. Williams, who has in addition to Texas, the state of Oklahoma, Arizona and California, says he would be too glad if it could be arranged to meet me and Mr. Harry Wright so as to get together on a plan for Texas and Oklahoma. I told him I thought it would be possible and suggested to him to write you regarding this matter.

At the office of the Negro Chamber of Commerce I talked with its secretary-manager, Mr. R. D. Bennett. Mr. Bennett says

the Dallas Negro Chamber of Commerce has a movement in co-operation with Mr. A. C. Johnson, Negro Co-ordinator for Veterans of the Dallas Vocational School which is, at this writing, in its infancy. It is the hope of the Dallas Negro Chamber of Commerce and Mr. Johnson that the present operation of the school, which is rather weak, will result in a permanent trade school for Negros in Dallas under the auspices of the Dallas Board of Education. Mr. Johnson's appointment was made by the Dallas Board of Education. Courses offered in the school include: tailoring, radio and airplane mechanics. Other trades are expected to be added later.

Mr. W. Burton Beatty, Jr., executive secretary of the Moorland Branch Y. M. C. A., pictures the situation of the Negro veterans in the Dallas area as a critical one. Says he, "since VJ Day the Negro has come out of industry which is due to conversion of many industries to peace time production. What the Negro veterans are receiving is questionable for it is a known fact that he's not being intergrated into the overall picture as far as job training and trade training is concerned.

Had a very interesting talk with Mr. A. Maceo Smith, Director of Region VIII of FHA, this morning and learned that he was one of the few Negroes in conference with Mr. Joseph D. Albright and the officials of #10 Branch of VA office here. In the conference Mr. Smith suggested that the Branch office set up an interricial advisory council with office in the Santa Fe Building. The interracial Advisory Council will have as its primary objective the intergration of Negroes into the VA's regional office for the #10 Branch. I also told Mr. Smith that I am going to organize a Negro Veterans Council in Texas and as one of the main cogs in the Negro Dallas Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Smith said that he would give the council space in the commerce's office for its headquarters. I thanked him very kindly and shall give his offer all consideration.

Sincerely,

Jewel M. Tatum

Jewel M. Tatum

Field Agent

October 15, 1946

Mr. Jewel M. Tatum
2020 Cable Street
Beaumont, Texas

Dear Mr. Tatum:

I admire the steady industry you show in getting back week after week to town after town.

I should think that by now you would be entitled to a week at home. You could be thinking over what you know and planning further moves.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Williams Hotel
701 N. Main Street
Bryan, Texas
September 20, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Avenue, NE
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

Located in the Northwestern portion of the Lone Star State, Texas, is the city, Bryan, which has been very consistent in its growth, continuing to progress even during the lean years of the late depression. Bryan is also the County Seat of Brazos County.

Talking with Dr. I. A. Carter, prominent Negro dentist, I learned that a large number of the people who lived here in the Brazos bottom agricultural section have been, since the recent boom caused by the war, moving rapidly from the farm regions to the urban centers in search for higher wages. Dr. Carter stated that the men who left the farms to enter the armed services and returned with honorable discharges have, for the most part, turned their backs on their farm employment and settled in cities. This move has created an unemployment problem in the urban centers throughout the Brazos bottom area. Said he, "I think the Federal Government should buy up the surplus farm property and open up opprtunities for the veterans who were once engaged in farm work." When he made this statement I began to discuss farm training and he thinks it will be the solution to the present unemployment problem since the city, because of its size, cannot afford industrial plants which would tend to alleviate the unemployment problem. "I certainly will be glad when the vocational training program goes into effect so as to give the veterans who wont go to school something to do," said Dr. Carter.

At the office of the Booker T. Washington Trade Association I talked with Dr. William A. Hammond, a Negro physician and president of the association. One might think, because of the word "trade" is a part of the association's name, that its members are members of various trade unions but such in not necessarily true in this association. The Booker T. Washington Trade Association is another name for "Negro Chamber of Commerce". Its members constitute the Negro business and professional men in Bryan, Texas, with only one or two of its members being engaged in a trade.

The association has as it object the encouragement of trade and business training among Negroes of Bryan, Texas. When servicemen began to return home the association gave a dinner in their honor and got an out of town speaker to address them on the value of taking advantage of the G.I. Bill of Rights. Said Dr. Hammond, "We've been encouraging the veteran to go to school and take some kind of training and quite a few have gone." I sug-

gested to Dr. Hammond that his organization secure names of white and Negro businesses and see if they could get them to take at least one veteran as a trainee. Said he, "I am certainly glad you made that suggestion, Mr. Tatum, and I shall see that the Booker T. Washington Trade Association gives it immediate consideration."

Mr. W. A. Bunting, County School Superintendent, in talking with him about vocational training said, "We haven't got started yet but are working on a schedule and as soon as it is complete I will run announcements in the papers as well as inform all veterans organizations and if we get enough to enroll we'll open up school for trade and distributive training."

At the Texas Unemployment Office I talked with Mr. Richard C. Bunting who said, "Since the schools have opened up we've had a 50% drop of veterans getting readjustment allowance and also with the opening up of several construction jobs has caused our 50% decrease in the last two months."

Mr. John R. Varnell, contact representative of the Veterans Administration, said, "A number of our veterans have gone to schools and many of them are on-the-job training. There are also a few white businesses that have a few colored veterans as trainees. Of course, the number of Negroes is not as large as whites but they are getting it gradually."

I asked him had he talked with the Negro veterans and he said, "No, but I'll be too glad to talk with them any time they would like for me to." I told him that they were meeting Thursday night and he asked, "Where and what time?" I told him the place and time and he said, "You can look for me at eight o'clock." At the appointed place and time Mr. Varnell was present and I introduced him to the Arthur Evans Post #159A of the American Legion and the veterans really did enjoy his talk. There were seventy-three members and non-members present. At the close of the meeting Mr. Varnell said, "Anytime I can be of any assistance, just come right on up to my office at the city hall and I'll be too glad to help you as best I can and, Tatum, thanks a lot for coming by the other day, for I enjoyed being present tonight, and if you should want me to talk with any more of the groups in the county, just let me know about a week ahead."

Bryan is also fortunate to have a Negro woman who has interest in the veterans getting ahead. She is Mrs. J. L. Williams, owner-manager of the Williams Hotel. Some of her work has been with the Booker T. Washington Trade Association and she has also interested a number of Negro ministers to pass on to their congregation the need of Negro veterans taking advantage of their present opportunities. Mrs. Williams, also a former school teacher, has secured sixteen members for the Arthur Evans Post #159A and states that she plans to have every veteran in Bryan a member of the post and interested in some type of training or on some job training by the end of the year.

Sincerely,

Jewel M. Tatum

P.S. Am glad you are considering coming to Texas. I shall let you know on or about the 5th of next month where I'll be the 8,9, and 10th of October.

William Wolff
701 N. Main Street
Bryan, Texas
September 20, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Director of Veteran Service
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Avenue N.E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

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rapidly from the farm regions to the urban centers in search for higher wages. Dr Carter stated that the men who left the farms to enter the Army services and returned with honorable discharges have, for the most part, turned their backs on their farm employment and settled in cities. This move has created an unemployment problem in the urban centers throughout the Brazos bottom area. Said he, "I think the Federal Government should buy up the surplus farm property and open up opportunities for the veterans who were once engaged in farm work." When he made this statement I began to discuss farm training and he thinks it will be the solution to the present unemployment problem since the city, because of its size, can not afford industrial plants which would tend to alleviate the unemployment problem. "I certainly

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to Dr Hammond that his organization secure names of white and negro business men see if they could get them to take at least one veteran as a trainee. Said he, "I am certainly glad you made that suggestion, Mr Dalton, and I shall see that the Booker T. Washington Trade Association gives it immediate consideration."

Mr W. A. Bunting, County School Superintendent, in talking with him about vocational training said, "we haven't got started yet but are working on a schedule and as soon as it is complete I will run announcements in the papers as well as inform all veteran organizations and if we get enough to enroll we'll open up the vocational schools." Continued he, "we are beginning first with agricultural training since this is an agricultural section and as other demands come in we'll open up school for trade and distributive training"

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also with the opening up of several construction jobs has caused our 50% decrease in the last two months."

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were seventy-three members and non-members present. At the close of the meeting Mrs Varnell said, "anything I can be of any assistance just come right on up to my office at the City Hall and I'll be too glad to help you as best I can." and Fatima, thanks a lot for coming by the other day for I enjoyed being friend tonight and if you should want me to talk with anymore of the groups in the county just let me know about a week ahead."

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(7)

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Sincerely,

Jewell M. Sates

P.S. Am glad you are considering coming to Texas. I shall let you know on or about the 5th of next month where I'll be the 8, 9, & 10th of October.

J.M.S.

2.

Houston, Texas
October 21, 1946

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

Have been talking to the veterans classes in agriculture this week and have been quite sucessful in getting them to get other veterans interested in the agricultural program that is set up here as well as to try and get trade and industries taught here.

At present there are twenty-two veterans out of approximately 75 in this city who have registered in the agriculture classes.

The other day I talked with Miss Jimmie Rene Ogg, County School Superintendent of the County School Board of this county and learned that agricultural is the only type of training that is being offered. Said she, "If any other veterans outside the ones in agriculture want trades we will try and give them the things they want."

Today I talked with Professor E. L. Rambo, Principal of the Sam Swartz High School and he said that aside from a little agicultural training the veterans weren't getting anything. "Thus far," said he, "We've added more equipment to our vocational agricultural department and have been holding classes for veterans two nights in each week."

In talking with Mr. B. L. Luter, instructor of vocational agriculture for the high school and for the veterans classes, he said that the classes are for the most part marking time in view of the fact that they haven't been able to get the necessary equipment for the veterans. Said he, "The classes have been meeting for about a month and every veteran seems to be quite interested, but we haven't been able to do too much because of the lack of equipment."

A few weeks ago there was a mass meeting for both Negro and white veterans here at the County Courthouse and at which time a man from the VA explained to the vets how they may take advantage of the GI Bill of Rights.

I spent a day going around to some of the farms with Mr. Luter to observe the interest and work the veterans in this type of training are doing. The man, in my opinion, seems to be doing a swell piece of work considering the lack of proper equipment.

At one of the class meetings the men promised they would seek to organize a Legion Post which I told them would be quite a value to them as veterans.

Sincerely,

Jewel M. Tatum

Hampton Sexton
October 17, 1946

Dr. Verge S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Service
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Avenue N.E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia.

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

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At one of the class meetings the men promised they would get to organize a Legion Post which I told them would be quite a value to them as veterans.

Sincerely,

Jewell R. Bates

October 29, 1946

Mr. Jewel M. Tatum
2020 Cable Street
Beaumont, Texas

Your report of October 25 was as usual most interesting.

Did you ever answer my little memo of September 25 about the best trade schools to look at? I now have at work an experienced and widely traveled expert on trade schools. He is to survey a number of them for us. If he came to Texas, which do you think would be the Negro trade training school with a heavy veteran enrollment that would be the most representative and interesting one for him to look at?

We all look forward to your coming here for the mid-November meetings.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

406 East Avenue
Corsicana, Texas
October 25, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Avenue, NE
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

I've found something here that is quite unusual for a city the size of Corsicana. This something is the"Corsicana Vocational School", located in the extreme northern section of this city on Highway 31. There are more than 200 veterans enrolled in the three trades, namely: talioring, auto-mechanics and carpentry. The school was started by two white veterans for the purpose of training Negro veterans in Navarro County, who are desirous of a trade training.

I spent a day at the school observing the men work and at intervals during the day I talked with many of them about their training and was glad to learn that they are proud of the trade school and are very satisfied with the training they are getting.

I didn't get a chance to talk with either of the two white men who operate the school as both of them are elsewhere seeking to open another of its kind for Negro veterans. They were successful in employing three qualified Negroes of Corsicana to each the trades being taught. Two of the instructors hold college degrees in their respective fields from Prairie View College and it was also interesting to know that one of the instructors is also a veteran of World War II.

I talked with Mr. Robert C. Reeder, contact representative for the Veterans Administration and wasn't able to learn very much as Mr. Reeder expressed himself as being somewhat afraid to release any information for fear the same would be published, and he isn't authorized to release an information pertaining to his work unless authorized to do so by his superiors.

I sat in Mr. Reeder's office from 9:00 AM to 11:45 AM and observed the difference in greeting Negro and white veterans. When Mr. Reeder would come to the door of the stenographer's office she would say if the veteran be white, "Mr. Reeder, this is Mr. Blank". Mr. Reeder would shake hands with the white veterand and with a friendly smile offer him a seat. If the veteran were Negro the lady would say, "Mr. Reeder, this is John Doe," and Mr. Reeder would say, "Have a seat, John", with quite a different facial expression from the one with which he greeted Mr. Blank, the white veteran. A Negro lady about 48 years old went in just before I did and she was addressed as "Mary". This lady wasn't offered a seat bu stood while Mr. Reeder talked with her with an angry look on his face.

Apparently her disabled son is ill and couldn't come to the office so she came to see whay they haven't received the pension on which both are living off.

Not knowing that Negroes had to go to the alley to the side entrance of the U.S.E.S. office, I went in the front, which is the entrance for whites. However, there's no sign at either entrance; the Negroes of Corsicana know that they are to come through the alley to the side entrance where they are greeted with such expressions, as they enter the U.S.E.S. office, "What is it, girl?" or "Boy, you haven't found a job yet?"

When I entered the front entrance I walked up to the counter and a lady asked me what did I want. I stated my mission and she pulled back a swing door and said, "Come in and have a seat. Mr. Reedy, the manager of our office is busy but he'll see you in a few minutes." I thanked her and took a seat. When Mr. Reedy had finished he walked up to me and asked, "How are you, Sir?" I spoke and stated my purpose. We both took a seat and here we talked for an hour and forty-five minutes. During our conversation, Mr. Reedy said, "When they first started discharging men from the service I personally asked several white business men if they would be willing to use Negro veterans as mechanics, welders and other such skills, because I had noticed, on their form 100, their service acquired skills and to my disappointment not a one would give the Negro veteran a chance." "I have noticed that they have employed a few mechanics but I dare say they are getting mechanics pay. They usually employ them as porters and helpers but they are actually doing the mechanic's job without mechanic's pay."

Mrs. R. L. Evans, secretary for the County Board of Education and wife of its superintendent, Mr. R. L. Evans, says, "Since the establishment of the vocational school on the north end of the city for Negro veterans we haven't made plans for any school except for vocational agriculture, and it is now in its beginning." Continued she, "However, we will offer other trades that are not being taught at the vocational school for Negro veterans if enough apply."

Dr. L. L. Smith, Negro dentist and civic leader, has been talking with veterans daily along with Dr. W. H. Davis, Negro physician, in an effort to get the veterans, who sit around the pool-halls wasting time, to wake up and take advantage of the opportunity to prepare themselves for better paying jobs.

I talked with Dr. Robert L. Rowe, Negro minister and pastor of Corsicana's largest Baptist church, Independent Baptist. Sunday coming the services at Independent Baptist Church will be in honor of veterans and a former chaplain of the U.S. Army will be the guest speaker. Dr. Rowe has asked me to appear on the program, and I consented, so I'll be here until Monday. The following named men have promised that they will work as a committee for the veterans' welfare: Doctors Smith and Davis, Revs. Rowe and Elder, Messers Rogers, Whitfield and Erwin.

Sincerely,

Jewel M. Tatum

406 East 9th Avenue
Corsicana, Texas
October 25, 1946

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Director of Veterans Service
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Avenue N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

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been talking with veterans daily along with Dr. W. H. Davis, Negro physician, in an effort to get the veterans, who sit around the pool-halls wasting time, to wake up and take advantage of the opportunity to prepare themselves for better paying jobs.

I talked with Dr. Robert L. Rowe, Negro minister and pastor of Corsicana's largest Baptist church, Independent Bapt. Sunday evening the services at Independent Bapt Church will be in honor of veterans and a former chaplain of the U.S. Army will be the guest speaker. Dr Rowe has asked me to appear on the program and I consented, so I'll be here until Monday.

The following named men have promised that they will work as a committee for the veterans welfare Doctors Smith and Davis, Revs Rowe and Elder, Messrs Rogers, Whitfield and Ewin.

Sincerely,

Jewel M. Patton

Mexia, Texas
November 1, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

About two weeks ago I received, in a letter from you, a news item from the Texas Press Clipping Bureau at Dallas in which reference was made to the discussion with coordinators of Freestone, Limestone, Leon and Anderson Counties. I spent this week talking with some of the officials of these counties about their programs for veterans.

I talked with Mr. A. W. Wedgeworth of Mexia, who was recently hired by the Freestone County Vocational School as vocational agricultural teacher. Out from Mexia, in a small brick building, but rather well equipped for the vocational agricultural training, I talked with Mr. Wedgeworth and his class of twenty-five veterans. After my ten-minute talk with them I spent some time in the field watching the men work and learned from them that they are very much satisfied with their training.

Prior to his employment as vocational agricultural instructor, Mr. Wedgeworth said he had gone to the VA Regional Office at Waco in search for employment as a veterans contact representative. "The man with who I talked", said Mr. Wedgeworth, "said, you can put your application in but I am sure you know it is highly improbable that you'll get a job as contact representative in Texas, for Negroes are not being used as contact representatives in Texas."

I also talked with Mr. A. W. Wedgeworth's brother, Mr. Clyde Wedgeworth, vocational agricultural teacher for veterans at Fairfield, Texas. His class has 21 veterans taking farm training with a weekly increase because of the spreading of the benefit in farm training by veterans already enrolled.

At the Kendrick Building in Mexia, I talked with Mr. Robert B. Rickerson, veterans contact representative. His story was, in substance, the same as that of other VA Contact Representatives. "From the number of men who come here seeking training, I can say that they are actually taking advantage of their opportunities to become better prepared men in their communities.

Among some of the ministers with whom I talked were: Reverends Morgan, Lockridge and Carr. While talking with these men, I suggested that they collectively or individually hold a special service, at sometime in the near future, in honor of the veterans of their city and at which time they could point out to the men the value of them taking advantage of this their greatest opportunity to prepare themselves to live better economically as well as morally. I received promises from all with whom I talked that they will take a greater interest in the veterans problems.

Sincerely,

Jewel M. Tatum

P.S. Mr O.T. Curlee, County School Supt. of Jasper County told me that several attempts have been made to establish vocational agr. school throughout the entire county - but they haven't been able to interest veterans in every section where they made this attempt. Said he," I want to see every veteran get the type of training he deserves and for that reason I feel that Negroes should be used in every phase of work pertaining to veterans so they (the Negro veterans) would get a clearer understanding of their rights + privileges as veterans".

Field Agent

November 7, 1946

Mr. Jewel M. Tatum
2020 Cable Street
Beaumont, Texas

Dear Mr. Tatum:

Many thanks for the report from Mexia.

What day shall you be coming into Atlanta?

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

2020 Cable Street
Beaumont, Texas
November 9, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

I talked with the officials of Grimes County this week and discovered that the officials have had a problem getting the veterans to take advantage of the vocational trade schools, which they want to open for them.

"I, said Professor J. C. Madison, "have made two attempts to get the veterans together and at both attempts I've had no luck. There are a number of them in this county and thus far only a few have left to go other places to school. Of course, at the present time vocational agricultural courses are being offered and that is because this is an agricultural section".

I asked Professor Madison what he thought was the reason veterans, who are not in school, are slow to take advantage of the vocational agricultural courses offered them in an agricultural county. Said he, "I don't know, but they just won't come out. I meet them on the streets, at church and football games as well as send out notices by my student body to inform the veterans of a meeting to be held here for their benefit, but they still don't come."

After talking with Mr. Marshall McBride, Manager of the Jones Funeral Home and Reverend R. A. Andrews, Pastor of Shiro Baptist Church, I learned from them the same thing Professor Madison told me.

I spent three afternoons around the George Washington High School in order to meet some of the veterans, who come over to play football in the afternoon, and two evenings going from the business places to homes of veterans. They've promised they'll meet with Mr. McBride & Professor Madison this coming Monday.

At Anderson, Texas, the County Seat of Grimes County, I talked with Attorney Al H. Mayfield. Mr. Mayfield serves as County Service Officer for Grimes County. He disclosed that "farm training among veterans in this area seems to be the thing of the

day" but as far as job training goes, Grimes County couldn't offer the veterans much as this is not an industrial area. Mr. Mayfield stated that in two of the towns in the county vocational agricultural schools were in operation but "it seems to be a problem to get others started throughout the entire county.

Professor David Allen, teacher at the G. W. Carver High School said he would spend his leisure moments in working with veterans. Being a veteran himself I am sure, with his efforts coupled with other citizens, there'll be more schools in operation in Grimes County in the near future.

Sincerely,

Jewel M. Tatum

Jewel M. Tatum

Moreland Branch Y.M.C.A.
2700 Flora Street
Dallas, Texas
November 25, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services
Southern Regional Counsel, Inc.,
63 Auburn Avenue N.E.,
Atlanta 3, Georgia.

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

We arrived here last Wednesday and had a conference with Mr. John H. Williams relative to the methods of approach to the problem of making the officials in the No. 10 Branch of the Veterans Administration know the need of the use of Negro Personnel in its administration.

On the following morning, at the Dallas Negro Chamber of Commerce office, we met with its Secretary - Manager and others of the Chamber and discussed the type of strategy to be used in getting our objective accomplished. It was decided in this conference, which decision met the agreement of me and Mr. Wright, that since the Negro Chamber of Commerce is a force out of which the progress of Negroes in Texas emerges that I would serve as a minute man to the Chamber and supply them with necessary factual information to be used to get our objective accomplished.

I am sure Mr. Wright has written you concerning our trip here. I am going to remain here as I have been asked to be present at the Board of Directors meeting of the Chamber on tomorrow night and also to get information on the Vocational training here.

I would like to suggest that a letter be sent to Mr. Ozbirn's office expressing your appreciation for the able assistance Mr. Williams has given us.

Sincerely,

Jewel M. Tatum

Jewel M. Tatum.

Field agent

3519 Bremond Street
Houston 2, Texas
November 7, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

This is to acknowledge your letter of October 29.

I regret to state that I did not answer your memo of September 25 in view of the fact that I can't account for having received the same. Since receiving your letter, as stated above, I have searched throughly through my memo and letter files for the memo in question, but vain has been my search.

I did, however, find in my letter file a copy of a letter, bearing the same date, which was sent to Mr. Harry L. Wright.

After having searched as throughly as I did, I am of the opinion that I did not receive the aforementioned memo. I am sure, if the same had been received, I would have replied within two weeks.

I plan to arrive in Atlanta sometime Monday.

Sincerely,

Jewel M. Tatum

Jewel M. Tatum

Personnel

December 16, 1946

Mr. Jewel M. Tatum
2020 Cable Street
Beaumont, Texas

Dear Mr. Tatum:

My budget is now running very short. I am satisfied I can keep you in pay status through the month of January, but that is all.

As you have been classed as a permanent employee, you have accumulated one day's leave a month. By our records, you should therefore be in duty status through January 21 and in terminal leave status through January 31.

I am most reluctant to lose your full-time services, because Texas is so big a place and so clearly needs what you have been doing. But I think you have got a great many things circulating that will continue to unroll to some extent by themselves.

Am I mistaken in recalling that you intend to come to Atlanta around February 1 to enter the Atlanta School of Social Work?

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Field Agent

December 17, 1946

Mr. Jewel M. Tatum
2020 Cable Street
Beaumont, Texas

Dear Mr. Tatum:

Many thanks for your good letter of December 13. Each time you write, I am again impressed with the competence with which you get into the problems you meet. Do not ever be persuaded that you are not getting a lot of good done. You are.

A man could send stuff through the mail to the people you talk to until the postman would quit toting it, but would never accomplish the changes in attitude and activity that your visits do accoplish.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Fort Worth, Texas
December 13, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

There is quite a difference between Fort Worth and a number of cities into which I've gone. That difference can be found in the forward steps the Negro leaderships of Fort Worth have taken in the interest of veterans. The forward thinking Negroes of Ft. Worth made a start on the same thing I am working on with the co-operation of the Dallas Negro Chamber of Commerce and other such organizations throughout Texas.

A few days prior to being employed by you the Negro VFW Post of Ft. Worth sent resolutions to the local Veterans Administration office, the #10 Branch, Austin, and Washington, D. C. The resolutions asked that Negro personnel be employed in the local and #10 Branch offices of the Veterans Administration. The move by the post was and yet is under the able leadership of Mr. Charles H. Robinson, Negro contractor, who is the present commander of the VFW Post # 5617 .

Mr. Robinson has also made several attempts to get the Fort Worth Board of Education to start an "A" rating trade school for Negroes in Fort Worth. In his attempts he has been met with opposition by the reactionary members of the board and as a result of this opposition the present trade training at I. M. Terrell High School isn't what Negroes of Fort Worth would like for it to be. "After waiting more than five months for the Board of Education to do something in the way of offering vocational training to Negro veterans, said Mr. Robinson, "I began to realize the danger that would come if the veterans weren't given something to do, so I regretfully approved the Southwestern College of Industrial Arts because it would be an outlet for the veterans who were walking the streets with desires to learn a trade and no school to attend."

As I began to point out the importance of the vocational school under the supervision of the Fort Worth Board of Education as a probable permanent school for Negroes in Tarrant County, Mr. Robinson interrupted by saying, "Yes, I, too, realize how important it would be as well as what it would mean, and I will not stop fighting with the school board until we get such a school in Fort Worth. This, continued Mr. Robinson, is the one main objective of our Veterans Committee.

At the sub-regional office of the Veterans Administration at the Majestic Building I talked with one contact representative and two training officers whose stories were as usual--that Negroes and whites receive the same treatment in their offices. As a result of experience and particularly in this office, it goes without saying that this is a fallacy, for Negro veterans don't get a warm reception as do whites who enter these offices. I was the sixth person waiting to see Mr. Moon, with one other Negro veteran ahead of me, and I sat in Mr. Moon's office for two and one-half hours observing the way veterans were being received. Each white veteran who walked up to his desk received a hand-shake, smile and was offered a seat. When the Negro veteran, as well as myself, walked up we did not get a hand-shake neither were we offered a seat. The white veterans talked with him for thirty minutes each while the Negro, who was ahead of me, stood and talked with Mr. Moon three minutes. While it might be possible for the Negro veteran to get what he wanted in three minutes and the white veterans theirs from thirty to thirty-five minutes, I still don't believe the Negro left feeling he had been given justice to his problem. It was my intention to question this veteran as to how well his problems had been solved but I was next and didn't get a chance to see him.

When I walked up to Mr. Moon's desk I, too, stood and explained to him why I had come to see him and after several moments of pondering, Mr. Moon, not with a smile nor hand-shake, offered me a seat. As I continued to talk Mr. Moon seemed to have become interested with a change of expression appearing in his face. Mr. Moon said, during our conversation about job training, "There are more than 300 veterans on job training under part 7 but I don't know the total number." When he made this statement I asked how many of the 300 were Negroes and he said, "Unfortunately none of these are Negroes, but I am sure there are some Negroes (veterans) on job training here but I don't know of any off hand." I then asked Mr. Moon if he had talked with any Negro veterans under part 7 who wanted job training and to this Mr. Moon replied, "No." Not knowing how many Negro veterans enter the sub-regional office I can't say that Mr. Moon's latter reply was a true one. It could be possible that he hadn't talked with any in view of the fact that I spent a half-day around the sub-regional office and saw some fifty white veterans come and go and only two Negro veterans.

At I. M. Terrell High School I talked with Mrs. Bunice Watson, office secretary to Mr. L. M. Johnson, Negro Co-ordinator of vocational training. Mrs. Watson said, "Mr. Tatum, you are right, the veterans are not getting what they deserve, but I don't want to be quoted because I am working for the Board of Education. I can only say what Mr. Johnson says and he says they are doing fine." Unfortunately Mr. Johnson was out but I gathered from responsible sources, from rank and file citizens in Fort Worth, that Mr. Johnson is a yes-man and stooges for the Board of Education.

The school offers radio and cooking. The radio course is taught in the basement of the school with a few tool sets and more men

than tool sets are available. Mrs. Bunice also said, "Mr. Tatum, this is off record and please don't quote me as saying it, but I don't see how these men are going to make a living at what they are getting here because they don't have the necessary equipment to even learn the trade as they should."

I went to the Fraternal Bank and Trust Company, the only owned and operated Negro bank in Texas, and had a talk with its president, Mr. William McDonald. Mr. McDonald said that his bank did not meet the requirements of the Veterans Administration as a job training establishment but he is trying to meet those requirements so as to give the Negro veterans who want to learn banking a chance. Aside from job training Mr. McDonald knew very little about veterans problems.

I also talked with seventeen more Negro business and professional men who were like Mr. McDonald--they knew nothing about veterans problems. I talked with each of them for sometime and pointed out some of the many problems veterans are facing. I was successful in interesting ten of the seventeen and they've promised to connect themselves with the Veterans Committee, Chamber of Commerce, so they'll be able to do something to help the veterans.

A veterans mass meeting has been scheduled and at which time business and professional men will be invited and encouraged to give their services to aid the veterans.

I would like to suggest that a personal letter be sent to Mr. Charles H. Robinson for the assistance he has given me and also because of the work he has been and is still doing.

Sincerely,

Jewel M. Tatum

Jewel M. Tatum

PAUL D. WILLIAMS, RICHMOND
PRESIDENT
P. B. YOUNG, NORFOLK
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT
FRANK W. SPENCER, SAVANNAH
SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT
CARTER WESLEY, HOUSTON
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GEORGE S. MITCHELL
DIRECTOR OF VETERANS SERVICES
RAY WARWICK
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

Southern Regional Council, Inc.

ROOM 432, 63 AUBURN AVENUE, N. E. ATLANTA 3, GEORGIA

A Council to attain, through research and action, the ideals and practices of equal opportunity for all peoples in the South

Corpus Christi, Texas
December 21, 1948

Dr George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Avenue N.E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Dr Mitchell:

There is not, in my opinion, a more liberal city in Texas than the city of Corpus Christi for here there's less friction between Negroes, whites and Latin American, the three races comprising the city's population, than in any other Texas city. In spite of this however, it is still a southern city.

In talking with many of its white and Negro leadership I learned that the city is quite young and as it is

growing it is the hope of its citizens that when it reaches its full development that it will be the leading southern city from the standpoint of race relations.

The interesting chat I had with Mr Ray Gorney, United Representative revealed little or no light on the status of veterans in Corpus Christi. He did say that he hope to see in the near future "an expansion of the Veterans Administration's program so as to include Negroes in all of its phases of work. We've been successful in getting a number of Negro veterans on job training at the U.S. Naval Base which is a few miles outside of the city limit and as men come back with various skills it is our hope to place many more of them."

Mr G. B. Sanders, Training Officer, disclosed that the training program has not been quite as effective as he had hoped it would be. Said he, "I've talked with both Negro and white veterans and most of them seem to have more interest in working than going to school and as a result we haven't had to many veterans coming in seeking training."

Through Rev. William Black, a young dynamic minister, I talked with several veterans at his church in a Young Peoples meeting and pointed out to them the value of taking advantage of their opportunity to train themselves for better classes of jobs than those they now have. Rev Black, an influential leader in Corpus, is going to organize a veterans committee the duty of which will be to look out after the interest of the veterans in the Corpus Christi area. He has promised to use a portion of the space in his church and the use of his clerical staff to assist in working toward complete integration of Negro veterans in Corpus Christi.

I talked at length with Mrs Maximia Richardson, Chief Clerk of the Shipping & Receiving Station at the U.S. Naval Base, and she paints the picture a little different from other with whom I talked. Said Mrs Richardson, "Negro veterans don't get the types of jobs they can do. If a man is an electrician he works only as a helper and regardless to how long or how efficient he may be he is never elevated from the position of helper. There's a big difference made between Negroes, whites and Mexicans. Of course, Negroes get many more knocks than do the Mexicans."

Before leaving Corpus I went around to Rev Black, Mrs Richardson, Dr Hall, Johnson, Gudenson, Messrs Bolden, Henderson, Rundall, Mrs Davis and others and asked them organized a committee to aid the veterans. It was suggested by Rev Black that they would hold a meeting during the month of January and organized and began working as a veteran committee. I will be back in Corpus on that date they organize as suggested by Rev Black.

Sincerely,

Jewel Mae Watson

P.S. Best wishes to you and the staff for a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year

January 10, 1947

Mr. Jewel M. Tatum
2020 Cable St.,
Beaumont, Texas

Dear Jewel:

Here is the semi-final on the proposed pamphlet of everybody's report material.

Please read it with care and give me your views.

(1) Should it be printed at all?

(2) Can you think of some more desirable way of stringing the material together?

(3) Are all paragraphs sufficiently stripped up place and people allusions to safeguard the Council's and the agents' interests? If not, please mark spots where you think changes should be made. Probably some paragraphs need deleting altogether. Mark the ones you think can be cut out.

(4) I am not too pleased with the introduct~~ionary~~ory statement. Any suggestions?

I will appreciate return of this copy with your notes at an early date.

Sincerely,

GSM/lg

George S. Mitchell

2020 Cable Street
Beaumont, Texas
January 31, 1947

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

In compliance with your letter of January 29 I am enclosing herewith, letter of introduction dated May 16, 1946, unused expense sheets, letter heads and visiting cards.

I forgot to mention to you in my letter of January 23 that Mr. O. A. Willman, Director Veterans' State Service Office of Texas, promised me a job as State Service Officer when the bill he has before the legislative body passes.

Sincerely,

Jewel M. Tatum

Jewel M. Tatum

Enclosures

2020 Cable Street
Beaumont, Texas
January 30, 1947

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

I am sending you under separate cover my final report of the work I've done in the past eight months as Field Representative of the Division of Veterans Services of the Southern Regional Council, Inc., entitled, "A Survey of Veterans Services for Negroes in Texas" and a "Roster of VFW Posts in Texas".

Enclosed herewith is a blank received yesterday from Atlanta School of Social Work which I would appreciate very much if you fill the same and give to Mr. Washington, its director.

I sincerely trust that the content of my report meets your approval. The semi-final with comments will follow.

Sincerely,

Jewel M. Tatum

Jewel M. Tatum

P. S. Please let me know, by telegram at my expense, if I cann enter A U School of Social Work. I would like to leave here Sunday night.

JMT

2020 Cable Street
Beaumont, Texas
January 30, 1947

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Avenue, N. E.
Stlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

In view of the fact that my job as Field Representative of the Division of Veterans Services of the Southern Regional Council, Inc., expires tomorrow, I wish to take this method to express to you my sincere appreciation for having had the opportunity to work for the past eight months under your able supervision.

I want to thank you and the council for the many courtesies shown and the advice and co-operation given me during my eight months as an employee of the council. It has been, indeed, a genuine pleasure and a real privilege to me to have served in this capacity. To you, I am especially grateful.

I sincerely trust that my work served the purpose for which I was employed and hope the fruits will be reflected in the betterment of services and conditions of Negro veterans as the influential persons and organizations I've contacted continue to press forward for the changes that will slowly but surely be forthcoming.

With best wishes to you and the council for all possible success in the future, I remain

Sincerely,

Jewel M. Tatum

Jewel M. Tatum

January 29, 1947

Mr. Jewel M. Tatum
2020 Cable Street
Beaumont, Texas

Dear Mr. Tatum:

As a matter of routine, please be kind enough to mail back to me the letter of introduction which I gave you when you started work in pay status with the Council, and also any unused visiting cards you may have on hand.

Sincerely,

GSM/lg

George S. Mitchell

January 28, 1947

Mr. Jewel M. Tatum
2020 Cable Street
Beaumont, Texas

Dear Mr. Tatum:

Very many thanks for your good letter of January 23rd.

You have been doing just what you should. I do hope the Bill goes through.

Gunter tells me he has an offer of a job as Veterans Training Facilities Officer in Tennessee. I hope it works out.

You will be very welcome when you get to Atlanta. I look forward to getting your survey report.

Sincerely,

GSM/lg

George S. Mitchell

Austin, Texas
January 23, 1947

Dr George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Service
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Avenue N.E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Dr Mitchell:

Have been patiently waiting here to get figures on employment of veterans to complete my report as well as talk to some of the officials in the state capital. Because of the inauguration of the governor & Lt. Gov. everybody in the capital was practically busy so I made a few trips to the war towns to see what progress had been made since I worked in this area last.

Talked with Mr. O.A. Wilkerson yesterday and he informed me that he has sent a bill to the legislature body requesting additional funds so as to enable him to employ Negro Service Officers in localities where Negroes are likely

population. At present there are 14 state service officers and 25 persons doing clerical work. None of these are Negroes but he has promised to employ at least 4 Negroes if the bill passes.

Mr Wellman suggested that I contact all veteran organizations and ask them to write their representatives requesting that they vote for the bill. I thanked him for his suggestion and am now having mimeograph copies made to send all veteran organizations informing them of the bill before the legislature body.

I will send my report to you by Tuesday week. I hope that the contact will be satisfactory.

Sincerely,
Jewel M. Fakes

P.S. I plan to enter Atlanta University next month. Work out for me — Thanks
JMF

February 18, 1947

Mr. Jewel M. Tatum
Atlanta School of Social Work
Atlanta College
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Mr. Tatum:

Please let me know your address and any usable 'phone number. From time to time, I need to get in touch with you particularly about Texas matters.

For instance, I need, as soon as you can tell me, to know approximately what Negro personnel is employed by VA in Texas.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM/lg

March 21, 1947

Mr. Jewel M. Tatum
c/o Atlanta University School
of Social Work
Atlanta University
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Mr. Tatum:

Mrs. Warwick told me that you mentioned some days ago to her the matter of leave.

My letter to you of December 16th was clear on the subject, and procedurally if you found later in January that the urgency of your work was going to require continuing in duty status for the period January 21st -January 31st you should have obtained approval in advance.

I am perfectly willing to recognize your loyalty to the job in keeping on at it until January 31st.

If you would like for us to pay you for the leave period, I suggest you write me briefly and state the request, in order that the files shall contain adequate record.

Sincerely,

GSM/lg

George S. Mitchell

AS I SEE IT

By C. W. RICE

LABOR UNION BIAS BARS NEGRO VETS FROM JOBS, TRAINING IN INDUSTRIES UNDER G. I. BILL

The Negro war veteran who composed about 10 per cent of the American citizens who fought, bled and died for democracy, is being robbed of the opportunity to earn, while they learn, by getting employment as an apprentice in industries as provided under the G. I. Bill of Rights.

The G. I. Bill provides that ex-service men can get employment as an apprentice or trainee at a fixed wage, then get compensation from the government while in training provided his combined income will not exceed the salary he would receive when he becomes a journeyman.

Negro veterans are denied this opportunity because of union discrimination and prejudice.

As I See It, thousands and probably tens of thousands of Negro G.I.s would like to advance in the trade they followed in the occupation division while serving in the army. Many of these men have families to support. They cannot live off the 90 dollars per month that Uncle Sam will pay them to go to high school or college. So, many of them are just wandering around trying to find a job that will pay them enough to care for their obligations. Seldom is one lucky enough to find a job where the hours will fit into his school schedule.

The factory gates that swung wide and beckoned to the Negro to come and work during the war are rapidly closing against him now, largely because these factories are under union regulations.

As I See It, the building trade unions here in Houston is a typical illustration of how ruthless labor unions are against Negro workers. There are probably thousands of Negroes who can do skilled work on any body's job but they can be nothing more than common laborers or "helpers" in the building trades. Moreover, the building trade unions have caused a $100,000,000 worth of construction work to be shut down, simply to force the contractors to recognize a common laborers' union of which about 90 per cent of the members are Negroes. The Negro members of this union are prohibited by the Trade Council from being elevated to anything higher than a common laborer or helper regardless of his skill, while the white members can advance to the highest skilled job.

The union is further seeking to make every contractor fire all workers who refuse to join their union, where, they would have to pay dues and special assessments for the privilege to work. The union is asking the contractors to do the very thing they have not done themselves, that is, to recognize the Negro as a full fledged union member under the democratic way of life.

I am not, and never have been and never will be opposed to the right of labor to organize, or to form and join unions of their own choosing. As I have said many times in this column before, labor unions have the same right to exist for the improvement of the conditions of the American workers as the manufacturers' association, the United States Chamber of Commerce or any other group seeking to improve the conditions of its group.

As I See It there is no greater flagrant violation of democratic rights and the Constitution of the United States, than for one group of workers to organize, scheme and manipulate to deprive another group of citizens of their God-given right to work and earn a living and advance according to their skill and ability solely on account of

(See AS I SEE IT, Page 8)

"The Negro Labor News" - Houston, Tex

AS I SEE IT—

(Continued From Page 1)

race.

As I See It, the Negro leaders who have taken the attitude that the labor unions are the salvation for the Negro and can't do them any harm, had better wake up and find out just how their people are being deprived of their right to work.

As I See It, the Negro leaders are wrong when they believe that all employers are just exploiters of Negro labor. If employers had followed the same practice as that of the labor unions for the last 54 years, Negroes would virtually be in slavery. Employers will give Negroes the opportunity to work at some kind of wages, while some unions won't let the Negro work at any kind of wages.

All the Negro plumbers and electricians here in Houston can starve and die so far as the unions are concerned. Honest, upright Negroes have been put in jail and made to pay heavy fines simply because they were wiring or installing plumbing fixtures in other Negroes' houses.

I am very much alarmed when I consider how the Negro worker is really being deceived in the labor union movement. What will the veterans do who have finished the skilled trades in schools approved by the government under the G. I. Bill of Right? Just imagine how disappointed some of these bright youngsters are going to be when they draw their last pay check from Uncle Sam and get their diplomas or certificates for having successfully finished their chosen course, only to find that labor unions prohibit him from working at his trade even among his own people and on government jobs sponsored out of the taxpayers funds.

As I See It, instead of Negro leaders pussy-footing and conducting a hush-hush campaign and covering up the vicious practices of many labor unions against the race, they should inaugurate a campaign to bring the unfair practices and race discrimination in unions before the bar of public opinion. They should cease to listen to the holier-than-thou attitudes against employers.

As I See It, Negro leaders should do some collective investigating on how Negro workers are being replaced, demoted and laid off from jobs, which they held for long years before the war. Some are being replaced by foreigners who have come to this country since V-J Day.

It is no wonder that Ralph McGill, a liberal and editor of the Atlanta Constitution, one of the oldest and most influential white papers in the South, told the A. F. L. labor conference at Asheville, N. C., in May, "The South expects you also to give the Negro worker a break."

ADS

Daisies Won't Tell . . .
But the Vindicator's
Want Ads Will!
TRY THEM!

VOCATIONAL—

(Continued from page one)

Dougharty, a member of the county school board; and E. A. Palmer, negro county agent.

It was pointed out that the county school board will render decisions and be in control of the program with the help of Mr. Bohanan.

This program is similar to the on-the-job training given to veterans in professional and mechanical types of work.

Two Phases of Training

The training will be divided into two phases: Actual class room work, and work actually done on the farm for practical experience. Not less than four hours a week, 200 hours per year, will be spent in the class room. The remainder of the time will be spent in actual farm work.

For remuneration a single veteran will receive $65 per month; a married veteran will receive $90 per month.

Mr. Bohanan, a veteran himself, said he hopes to be able to contact all communities in the county by the middle of July to explain the training to interested veterans.

Liberty Will Be Visited July 12 By VA Experts

An information team, composed of four Veterans Administration regional office divisional officials, will hold a public meeting in Liberty, for Liberty, Chambers and Hardin counties, Friday, July 12. The meeting will be held at 8 p.m.

American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled Veterans and other ex-servicemen's organizations are being invited to sponsor the meetings, which will be open to all veterans as well as the interested public.

"Each member of the team is an expert on particular phases of veterans' governmental benefits and procedure," said Leon Howell, V.A. regional manager, "and by their appearing jointly in a meeting we not only expect to give the veteran a complete explanation of the benefits available to him through the Veterans Administration, but will endeavor to correct existing misconception about the program."

Experts on V.A. Team

The V.A. information team will be composed of P. F. Morgan of the vocational rehabilitation and education division; A. M. Springer of the loan guaranty division, and Stewart C. Fisher of the contact division.

Mr. Howell believes that never before has the veteran had an opportunity to get in such a centralized way during one evening such a complete and comprehensive explanation of the benefits and services provided by the government for him as well as the methods of applying for such entitlements.

"We do not believe that the veteran will be fully informed at these meetings by answer to any of his troublesome questions, but we believe the communities in which the meetings are held will be better informed of the place and part they play in this program," said Mr. Howell.

"Of Inestimable Value"

The meetings were planned by the V.A. Houston regional office after, conference with state and district representatives of ex-servicemen's organizations who reported that a tour of this area by such a V.A. information team would be of inestimable value to the veteran.

"Whereas our contact officers have been supplying information to the veteran in their normal operations in this region, which now reach virtually all communities in the region, our information team can greatly supplement their efforts," said Mr. Howell.

County Vocational Schools Are Being Discussed at Vet Meetings

Meetings are being held in all parts of the county by veterans to discuss the county vocational schools for veterans' rehabilitation and educational program on the farm, F. P. Bohanan, county coordinator of the program, said yesterday.

The first meeting in the county was held Friday night by 15 Eastgate veterans who discussed the program with Mr. Bohanan. The men were very enthusiastic about the possibilities of the program, Mr. Bohanan said.

In another veterans' meeting at Tarkington, 15 veterans were present, with an additional five expected to take part in the program.

Ames Meeting Held

E. A. Palmer, negro county agent and a member of the advisory board of the program, was in charge of a meeting held at Ames last week. The 35 veterans present expressed their full cooperation in this training. Mr. Bohanan said it was an assured fact that a colored instructor would be available for these veterans.

Veterans in the Hardin, Romayor, Hull-Daisetta, Devers and Cleveland areas will be contacted next week by Mr. Bohanan. At these meetings—as in the previous meetings—the set-up of the program will be discussed along with the qualifications each veteran must have to participate in the training.

Veterans living in the Liberty and Dayton areas interested in taking this vocational training are invited by Mr. Bohanan to contact him in the county superintendent's office in the courthouse. "If I should not be there," he said, "any member of the advisory committee will be only too glad to discuss this program with you."

Advisory Committee Named

The advisory committee named to help in this program is composed of the following: Carlton W. Trant, AAA representative in Liberty; G. L. Hart, county agent; Miss Nettie Smith, home demonstration agent; Frank Speer, county service officer; Frank K.

See VOCATIONAL page 8

Unemployed Vets In Liberty Total 215; Civilians 88

Unemployed veterans outnumber unemployed civilians workers by a total of 127 men in Liberty, Louie Smith, district supervisor for the Texas Unemployment Compensation Commission, reported yesterday.

He said that the veterans were searching for jobs themselves and that the unemployment service was aiding, but that churches, civic clubs, and merchants associations were needed to help solve this major reconversation problem—the re-employment of war veterans.

In Liberty there were 88 unemployed civilian workers and 215 unemployed veterans. The veterans receive their readjustment allowances under provisions of the G. I. Bill. Payments under the G. I. Bill come frm moneys supplied by the Veterans Administration out of congressional appropriations for that purpose.

"Our economy will be unbalanced until these veterans find jobs," Smith declared, explaining that this was not only a local problem, but nationwide. "Everyone has got to help because our post-war economy is not absorbing them fast enough," he continued.

Smith said that in the few instances where the veterans have refused suitable jobs, their allowances have been stopped, as provided in the G. I. Bill.

VETERANS OFFICE INTERVIEWS 1418

Report For First Six Months Of 1946 Is Released

During the first six months of this year the Jasper county veterans' service office interviewed 1418 veterans and dependents of persons who served in active military or naval service who needed information and assistance in filing claims with the Veterans' Administration, according to a report released by E. C. Bodkin, service officer.

Applications made included 63 for disability persions, 129 for out-patient and hospital treatment, 312 for vocational rehabilitation and educational training, 21 for mustering-out pay, 19 for change of insurance, nine for widow's pensions, nine for dependent parent's pensions, three for headstones and one for burial expenses.

Information and advice was given on problems relating to surplus property, delinquent war bonds, back pay, business and home loans, etc.

VETERANS MEETING SET FOR MONDAY

Team Of Experts To Answer Questions On GI Bill Benefits

All veterans and persons interested in veterans' benefits are urged to attend a special meeting to be held here in the district courtroom Monday night at 8 o'clock, when a Veterans Administration information team will be here to answer questions and discuss problems of this nature.

The team is composed of experts on particular phases of veterans' governmental benefits and procedure and are equipped to give accurate information regarding benefits and to correct existing misconceptions regarding the program.

On the team are P. F. Morgan of the Vocational Rehabilitation and Education division, P. E. McMichael of the Adjudication division, A. M. Springer of the Loan Guaranty division and Stewart C. Fisher of the Contact division.

The meeting is open, not only to veterans, but also to anyone else interested in securing more information on the benefits to which veterans may be entitled under the various government programs.

Field Agent
Ala

May 17, 1946

Mr. Frank P. Thomas
2615 Eleventh St.
Tuscaloosa, Alabama

Dear Mr. Thomas:

The way we handle expense accounts is one sheet for one week, that is all travel during the week.

I am glad you are working at the problems in Alabama.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Huntsville,Ala.
May 15,1946.

Dr.George S.Mitchell,Director
Veterans Services
Southern Regional Council
63 Auburn Avenue N.E.
Atlanta,Ga.

Dear Dr.Mitchell:

I am enclosing herewith my expense account for the week ending May 16.I trust you will find it properly prepared as I do not know fully how to go about it.I am now deeply concerned with the number of sheets to send in each week.I do not know if I should fill a seperate sheet with every trip or one sheet weekly showing the entire amount for the week.This report includes my trip to Atlanta and one day in Mobile where I shall be tomorrow night.

Mr.Twitty was not wrong about anything he stated in his article showing the conditions and lack of proper interest in Negro veterans. I find in many instances things are worse.I am working hard to get the informational committees set up and into operation.I will give you the details in my letter Saturday which will be written from Mobile.

If there are any corrections or additional instructions,write me at my home address where I shall be Monday,May 20.

With best wishes,I am,

Very truly yours,
Frank P. Thomas
Frank P.Thomas

Mobile, Ala.
May 19, 1946.

Dr. George S. Mitchell, Director,
Veterans Services
Southern Regional Council
63 Auburn Avenue N.E.
Atlanta, Ga.

My dear sir:

Although I have traveled hundreds of miles through my native state this week and found little being done for Negro veterans, I am hopeful that something can and will be done shortly. My contacts indicate the lack of proper information as being one of the chief causes for the lack in the program. I feel if this information was gotten across to the veterans as well as other responsible persons in the community, something would happen. This step, now mind you, would in no way completely solve the problem. The real trouble is with the group of master minds in high places who refuse to employ skilled Negro personnel to work with their group. Most of the white interviewers and contact representatives are either too busy witht their own race or are assuming an indifferent attitude towards the colored veteran. Too another very discouraging aspect of the situation is the large number of Negroes in places of leadership that are far too complacent about veterans benefits. Your school heads, your professional men, your ministers and other leaders are sitting idly by and allowing the exservicemen to return to their communities and former common labor jobs that pay little or nothing. This is sad but true.

I hope to see some of the officials in Montgomery and see if it is possible to employ more Negro Coordinators, establish more trade school and hire some Negro contact representatives. I hope to get all of the Negro newspapers in the state to give more space and effort to the veteran's problems. I feel this will help some.

I am enclosing newspaper clippings on the Mobile racial situation and an account of conditions in other communities visited during the week. I hope they enable you to get the picture as I see it.

Very truly yours,
Frank P. Thomas
Frank P. Thomas

BIRMINGHAM

Here a little is being done for veteran's on-the-job training.A Negro coordinator has been employed and has offices at the colored Industrial High School.I did not see him as he was out each time I called to ascertain the number of men securing this training. I am sure that there is a need for ten more Negro coordinators and I feel they will be hired if enough pressure is brought to bear on the city borad of education.I shall try to get this committee organized.One of the main troubles there is the lack of cooperation on the part of banks and other lending agencies in the matter of making Negro veterans loans.As far as I have been able to ascertain not one Negro has been able to get a loan of any type.It is rumored by some of the veteran leaders that an an agreement to reserve all of the money available for G.I. loans for whites.I have not been able to contact the service officer there to see if this was true.I am sure that if any home or business loans have been made for Negroes they are very,very few. It was very interesting to note that the men,frustrated by the attitude of the bank have organized or in the process of organazing a building and loan association of their own.This move was prompted,not only by the unwillingness of the bank to cooperate but by the building contractors of both races who did not have the time to do small jobs.The state building laws require a bonded contractor to do the job before a loan can be arranged.This makes it almost impossible for Negro veterans to obtain aid.There several hundred veterans who have purchased and paid for lots upon which they wish to build homes.By organazing their own company they will be able to hire carpenters,masons and other workers to do the job.A finished architect will direct the building activities of the company.I will have more information on this subject later.

DECATUR

In Morgan County nothing has been done for the Negro veteran.Nine Negroes are enrolled in the regular high school.They plan to transfer to the college in Huntsville as soon as they finish.Three Negroes are on the job training program.The white coordinator plans to conduct night classes for them at the Negro High School.He plans to employ another teacher for another and larger night class for veterans.The trouble here is lack of information.A comittee will be set up here next week.Negroes voted and registered without any trouble.Prospects favorable.Here I contacted Dr.J.C.Blair of the State Department Of Education who promised to give us full assistance in getting this program underway.He is sincerely interested in the welfare of Negroes and was frank in pointing out the trouble.

HUNTSVILLE

More is happening for Negro veterans in Madison County than in most sections of the state.At the Alabama Institute here one hundred-fourteen Negro veterans are being trained. The state is building forty-six veterans housing units on the campus of this school which is now accredited by the Southern Association as a four year college and trade school.A Negro coordinator for Madison County has been employed and will have offices in the school.Over forty men from Huntsville are enrolled in various classes at the school.A number of men in the county areon the job training program.Bank's attitude reported very favorable in making businessand building loans to Negro veterans.Several veterans have opened businesses.I do not know if they secured G.I.loans. J.C.Jamar, newspaper editor and teacher will head committee there.He will be assisted by James Mayfield,head of a large mixed labor union.Prospects very favorable.

Field agent

May 31, 1946

Mr. Frank P. Thomas
2615 Eleventh Street
Tuscaloosa, Alabama

Dear Mr. Thomas:

It seems to me that contact should be made with the Governor of Alabama about the situation you find in Mobile as to trade and training opportunities for Negro veterans. Is there some Interracial Committee or some other suitable group in the State who could call on the Governor and press this matter?

We are sending a check to the printer at Tuscaloosa for the bill that you sent in - $8.50.

You should feel perfectly free to engage an automobile if you need it. The eight or ten cents that I guess a U-Drive-It costs would break me soon, so go sparingly. There may be some cheaper deal with someone who owns a car and would let you use it.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

THE ALABAMA CITIZEN

AND

THE TUSCALOOSA WEEKLY REVIEW

"A CLEAN, CONSTRUCTIVE NEWSPAPER SERVING THE THOUSANDS OF ALABAMA'S BLACK BELT"

PUBLISHED WEEKLY

2615 Eleventh St. TUSCALOOSA, ALABAMA P. O. Box 815

FRANK P. THOMAS, President and Publisher
E. TONE RELEFORD, Business Manager
LANCIE M. THOMAS, Sec'y-Treas.

PHONE 7032

May 25,1946

Dr.George S.Mitchel
Southern Regional Council
63 Auburn Avenue N.E.
Atlanta,Ga.

My Dear Sir:

Today I am very much discouraged after spending a week of tireless effort in trying to awaken the citizens of Mobile to their obligations to the Negro veterans.I must admit that in this growing city with its sixty thousand Negro inhabitants there is little or nothing being done for Negro ex-servicemen. Here where racial prejudice is rearing its head in its most violent and sinister form neither white or color is conscious of the needs of its Negro ex-G.I.'s.

I expected the whites to be rather careless in going out of their way to provide opportunities for Negro veterans,but I did not feel the Negroes would treat this vital problem with such a lack of interest.The most disgusting element of my visit there was the total absence of any concern for Negro veterans on the part of our own people.The business men,the ministers, the teachers and the other leaders have done nothing to assist returning ex-servicemen in obtaining any benefits whatever.The two bright spots on the horizon are John L.LeFlore,President of the local branch of NAACP and I.H.Rhone,Editor of the Gulf Informer who alone have championed the cause of Negro veterans and have incurred the wrath and hatred of the whites.It was through the efforts of these two that one full time Negro coordinator has been employed.

Despite the militant effort of these two leaders only thirty-two of the eight hundred veterans on the job-training program in Mobile County are Negroes.Out of twenty coordinators there are only one full time and one part time Negro coordinator.The white trainees in Mobile have access to plant valued at one hundred thousand dollars where they are able to secure training in virtually every field imaginable.Negro trainees have little or ne facilities for their training.The Negro coordinator has over one hundred applications for auto mechanics,twenty for

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PHONE 7032

electricians,a large number for shoe repaining and radio and yet the Superintendent has not seen fit to establish schools for training Negro men in these fields.I talked with him and clearly pointed out the necessity of instituting these courses so that Negro veterans in addition to earning a worthwhile living would be able to serve members of their own group.He attempted to evade the issue by referring me to Mr.Ceciel Ward, Vocational Director,a man whom I personal know to be definitely anti-Negro.I did not waste my time in seeing Mr.Ward as he had been contacted by Twitty, eFlore and Rhone and had done nothing. So it seems that little would be done unless sufficient pressure can be brought to bear on the Superintendedt and the Board of Education.

I talked to the Negro Business Men's League who promised to see that something is done on this issue.I am writing a Catholic preist and one of the leading white business men who are very interested in this problem and who will be of assistance to the colored group.

I hope by employing this method we might be able to awaken the conscious of the people of Mobile to their obligations to the Negro veterans.

Next week I shall work the smaller communities in and arpund Tuscaloosa.You may expect a call from me Monday asking permission to rent an automobile to cover this section as the towns are small and I cannot make the contacts without the use of a car.

On my expense account I am enclosing a statement for $8.50 for printing a thousand information cards which I shall use to supply the various information committees throughout the State.

I shall welcome any suggestions that you might offer at all time.

Yours for a New South
Frank P. Thomas
Frank P.Thomas

FPT/lmt.
Enc.

THE ALABAMA CITIZEN

AND

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PHONE 7032

June 1,1946

Dr.George S.Mitchell
Southern Regional Council
63 Auburn Avenue,N.E.
Atlanta,Ga.

Dear Sir:

I am enclosing factual reports of the work done this week.I feel that progress is being made in getting the interest aroused in Negro veteran affairs as well as getting the interest and attention of local and state officials centered on this very vital question.After interviewing some of the officials in charge of the program I can see that something will be done if the proper interest is manifested by the colored people themselves.The State Administrator of veteran trade and industrial training program thinks well of the work we are doing in organizing these committees and feel that great service may be rendered.

I am enclosing cards on each committee.

Yours for a New South

Frank P. Thomas

Frank P.Thomas

FPT/lmt.
Enc.

June 4, 1946

Mr. Frank P. Thomas
2615 Eleventh Street
Tuscaloosa, Alabama

Dear Mr. Thomas:

I am glad to learn from your letter of May 31st that things are beginning to look more encouraging. Alabama is leading the way in the South by employing those additional Negro co-ordinators.

I am quite satisfied with your reports as they are. I always like detail and I don't object in the least to a long report.

Send me one of your letterheads when you get them printed.

We are sending you 100 copies of Mr. Twitty's article and some more pamphlets about SRC. Your cards are expected to to be available by June 12, and will be mailed to you as soon as they reach us.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

THE ALABAMA CITIZEN

AND

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PHONE 7032

May 31,1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell, Director,
Veterans Services
Southern Regional Council
63 Auburn Avenue N.E.
Atlanta, Ga.

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

My work this week has had more of an encouraging aspect than that of previous weeks. I feel that something is being accomplished. I have made contacts with committees in several counties and I feel that they are going to get something done. The attitudes of the officials in these communities have seemingly taken a change for the better and all that I have interviewed have expressed a willingness to employ Negro coordinators. All think well of the Information Committee idea and have given me their words on the matter of getting something done on the matter of aiding Negro veterans. Today I contacted one of the state officials in charge of the entire veterans training program in Alabama and he gladly welcomed the Committee idea. I am sending you a detailed factual report on the men interviewed.

I need some information from you on how to prepare my reports. I would like to know if you want detailed information or a record of each interview of each person contacted. Mr. Twitty was by Monday and he stated that you would possibly want the report submitted in this form rather than in the manner in which I have been preparing it. I would appreciate your immediate attention in this matter as I can get any information that you may desire.

I am having some letter heads printed for the Veterans Information Committee which will be used in contacting these various groups throughout the state. I am setting up files for each county so that I might have a complete record of the affairs in each community. When I am out of the city my secretary will be able to provide the necessary information. I feel that this will be most effective way of getting the job done. Too, I

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PHONE 7032

need more material on the council and more copies of the New South with Twitty's article. The calling cards will also be very beneficial if they are available. If you have this material please rush some to me.

I will mail a complete report of my work later this week.

Hoping to hear from you in the immediate future, I am,

Yours for a New South

Frank P. Thomas

Frank P. Thomas

FPT/lmt.

Field agent

June 5, 1946

Mr. Frank P. Thomas
2615 Eleventh Street
Tuscaloosa, Alabama

Dear Mr. Thomas:

I am greatly interested in what you tell me about the use of Negro coordinators of trade and industry education in Alabama.

Would you take time to write me a good long letter about it?

I would like to know:

(1) What these men do, who bosses them, what officals (by title, not by name) have the decision as to whether to employ them or not.

(2) What their relationship is to the head official of T and I in each County and in the State.

(3) What their work is as regards non-veterans and as regards veterans, how their work ties in with on-the-job training for veterans.

(4) Educational and experience qualification usually invloved in selecting these men.

(5) Approximate distribution of them now within the State, what their office arrangements typically are, and what facilities they are afforded for making contacts with present and potential employers of Negro veterans and non-veterans taking work under them.

(6) What part of their time they give to teaching and what part to supervision.

(7) Number of trainees, and anything else you think of.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

VETERANS INFORMATIONAL COMMITTEE

AN INDEPENDENT AGENCY
SERVING THE SOUTH

NON-PARTISAN—INTER-RACIAL
INTER-DENOMINATIONAL

Field Asst

EXECUTIVE OFFICES: 2615 NINTH STREET, TUSCALOOSA, ALABAMA
FRANK P. THOMAS, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

PHONE 7032
P. O. BOX 815

June 9,1946

Dr.George S.Mitchell
Southern Regional Council
63 Auburn Avenue,N.E.
Atlanta,Ga.

Dear Sir:

In reply to your request for more information of the use of Negro coordinators of trade and industrial education in Alabama I am proud to state that I am making rapid progress in obtaining the material you desire.I have contacted the men here who administer the program ane next week I will see the State Officials so that I will be able to give you complete details of the entire setup.

A meeting was held in Greensboro on Friday night in which the Veteran Information Committee of Hale County was formally organized. I am proud to state that everyone present became intensively interested in the program and pledged themselves to do something about it.Mr.J.W.Wiggers,white Advisor of veterans affairs of Hale County was present and endorsed the action of the committee and promised his full support to the program.I am enclosing a detailed factual report of the meeting.

This week I shall visit Birmingham and Montgomery where I shall contact City,County,State and Government Officials who have charge of the veterans' program.

I am enclosing a copy of the stationery discussed.The statement for same is included in my expense account.

Yours for a New South
Frank P. Thomas
Frank P.Thomas

FPT/lmt.
Enc.

Field Agent

June 20, 1946

Mr. Frank P. Thomas
2615 Eleventh Street
Tuscaloosa, Alabama

Dear Mr. Thomas:

Thanks for your letter of June 17th and the report of June 15th.

I am glad to get the material about the Negro T & I coordinators. I am still unclear as to the funds from which these men are paid. If they are Smith-Hughes vocational teachers, presumably they are treated as either State employees ore county or city employees (which?), and presumably as half of the money used to pay their salaries comes from the Federal grant through the Office of Education under the Smith-Hughes and George-Deen Acts, a fourth is put up by the State and a fourth by the county or the city (county for rural, city for city). If they are paid out of the funds coming from the VA as tuition money, that is another story. Possibly, they are paid from both sources. Can you give me an explanation on this?

The advertisement in the Sunday Birmingham News was fine - temperate and forceful. It should do good. I am glad it has such wide support.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

can do about it."

Liaison Officer Will Work With Negro Vets

MONTGOMERY, July 2—(AP)—Employment of a liaison officer to work with the state's $85,000 negro veterans has been authorized by the Veterans Affairs Board.

C. C. Horton, state service commissioner, says the new officer will travel throughout the state to acquaint negro voters of their rights and opportunities under the GI Bill.

The board has also approved appointment of Walter C. Head, Jr., of Bessemer as an assistant state service commissioner.

Special Polio Nursing

This comes a direct result of our work here. This man will be a Negro and selected from the list I submitted. I feel we are going places in Alabama. There will be others of this man succeeds.

ALICEVILLE-CARROLLTON

Sunday July 7th I motored to Aliceville and Carrollton where Negro veterans were assembled n an effort to obtain some information relative to the securing of benefits thay so justice deserve.Mr.Calvin Weir,former 1st Lt. and high school teacher had arranged for these meetings which were well attended.Mr.Weir had secured card from me and had veterans from all sections of the county to sign them.Most of the men indicated their preference as auto mechanics or on-the-farm training (At present not one Negro veterans is enrolled on-the-farm training and no courses for industrial training for Negro veterans have been established).

Mr.Weir has contacted the Superintendent of education relative to the appointment of a Negro coordinator but was refused on the ground that the county did not have enough Negro establishments to warrant one.This Superintendent who lost the election for office as possible the result of the Negro vote has a very nasty attitude toward all colored people.I have been informed that the County Vocational Agricultural teacher was dismissed as a result of his activity in campaigning against this man.

A new Superintendent who received approximately all of the Negroes one hundred odd votes in this county is very favorable fair and progressive minded and has promised to get something done as soon as he is installed in his office one year from this date.

Mr.Weir and other leaders of the community promised to get something going for on the-farm training and classes started in continuous education,there was approximately fifty veterans present at these meetings.

- MOBILE-

Correspondence from Dr.B.F.Baker,Principal of Mobile County Training school indicated a barrier was being errected to halt our attempts to secure trade and industrial education for Negro veterans of that area.You will recall my mentioning of Negro veterans an opportunity to become decent wage-earners as the result of this. In spite of the two hundred applications filed with the Negro coordinator,Fonville and the pressure being brought to bear by the Mobile U.S.Employment Service the school board is reluctant to institute any type of shop courses for Negroes.

In an interview this week Dr.Baker stated that he has consulted a Mr. Clark,Supt.of the County-City School system after I had requested him to do so.Mr.Clark explained that his report from Mr.Ward(white) Director of trade and industrial education indicated a good program for Negro veterans was going in Mobile county. Dr.Baker,not being fully aware of all the aspects of the program was not in a position to refute this statement.Dr.Baker then conferred with Mr."ard concerning the possibilities of establishing a school for auto mechanics.Mr.Ward stated that he did not consider a school of this nature helpful as there was far too many mechanics.He did not mention anything about redio,refrigerating,woodworking,shoe repairing,plumbing or electrical or any the many other schools now being conducted for whites. We made several trips to Mr.Ward's office but was unable to see him as he was unable to see him as he was as he was out of town.I am writing him today and sending him a copy of Twitty's article.

Dr.Baker suggested we contact Mr.Al Delchamp(white) a member of the school board and chairman of inter-racial committee of the Council of Social Agencies,a local set up. We tried to contact Mr.Delchamp but he too was away for the holiday.I am writing Mr.Delchamp also informing him of the needs

of local Negro veterans. Dr. Baker has promised to contact these men again as he is now fully informed of the provisions of the G.I.'s Bill of Rights and is now able to speak intelligently concerning same.

Mr. Fonville the coordinator explained that he will soon reach the satuation point for on-the-job training and unless shop courses are established thousands of Negro veterans will be unable to receive the much needed training.

July 2, 1946

MEMORANDUM TO: Frank P. Thomas
FROM: George S. Mitchell

I need some information about training programs for Negro veterans. Please try to get it back to me by Monday, July 8th. Send it by wire if you have to.

What I want is your best guess as to the number of white veterans receiving respectively job training, institutional training, and farm training, and the number of Negro veterans receiving each, as of the end of June ' 46, in Alabama.

Field Agent

July 3, 1946

Mr. Frank P. Thomas
2615 Eleventh Street
Tuscaloosa, Alabama

Dear Mr. Thomas:

What do you think the conference of Negro newspaper editors of Alabama would cost?

I am impressed by your work in Anniston and Gadsden. If you go back, it might be well to interview some of the leaders of CIO unions in steel and rubber, but only if you think that would be helpful.

Your own special veterans edition sounds fine.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

VETERANS INFORMATIONAL COMMITTEE

AN INDEPENDENT AGENCY
SERVING THE SOUTH

NON-PARTISAN—INTER-RACIAL
INTER-DENOMINATIONAL

EXECUTIVE OFFICES: 2615 NINTH STREET, TUSCALOOSA, ALABAMA
FRANK P. THOMAS, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

PHONE 7032
P. O. BOX 815

July 1, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Director Veterans Services Souther Regional Council
Room 432, 63 Auburn Avenue East
Atlanta 3, Ga.

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

Sometime ago you expressed interest in a state wide Conference of Negro Newspaper Editors of Alabama for the purpose of discussing the various problems of Negro veterans and their solution. Since that time I have discussed individually with most of the Negro men and they feel that much could be done toward effecting a better condition for Negro ex-service men, if such a meeting is held. Last week Mr. Jackson, of the Birmingham World stated that he would lend his full assistance to such a project and would write you regarding the same. A few moments ago I talked with Editor Rhone who expressed his willingness to attend such a Conference any time it was called. As I have stated before the most militant persons in every Community are your Negro Newspaper men and I feel that they will go all out in an effort to secure benefits for veterans.

I believe you mentioned in the telephonic conversation that the Council would defray some of the expenses. Please inform me immediately just what the Council will do in regards to the expenses involved, so that I can notify Mr. Jackson to begin making preparation.

I am also planning the publication of a special state-wide veterans edition in our paper at an early date. This paper will contain pictures and news items on veterans activities in the state of Alabama. We hope to circulate at least twenty thousands copies of this issue. We will write you further regarding same.

With best wishes,

Yours very truly,

Frank P. Thomas

Frank P. Thomas

FPT/vbh

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FRANK P. THOMAS, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

PHONE 7032
P. O. BOX 815

July 1, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell, Director
Veteran Services
Southern Regional Council
63 Auburn Avenue N. E.
Atlanta 3, Ga.

Dear Dr. Mitchell

Enclosed you will find this week's reports. I had hoped to find attitudes in Anniston and Gadsden much different so that more time could be devoted to the Agricultural program in the more Rural areas. Despite the brilliant showing now being made by Alabama in the matter of veterans training as compared to other states there is so much to be done in the larger Communities that I feel my work would be greatly neglected if I turned my attention to the Rural program and left the thousands of Negro veterans in the Surb-urban Communities without an adequate training program.

This week I am returning to Mobile to make another appeal to the City superintendent and the vocational Director to institute courses at the local high school so that some of the hundreds of Negro ex-service men desiring training in the various phases of training can do so without having to go to Tuskegee, A. & M. Institutions or some other institution. I have talked with the state supervisor of this program and he is trying to help me convince the Mobile authorities of the need of sucha a program. I feel that I should pay this Community another visit at this time.

I shall attempt again to solicit the assistance of certain leading whites in Mobile to help me get the program going.

With best wishes,

Yours very truly,

Frank P. Thomas

Frank P. Thomas

Enclosure
FPT/vbj

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FRANK P. THOMAS, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

PHONE 7032
P. O. BOX 815

June 17,1946.

Dr.George S.Mitchell,Director,
Veterans Services
Southern Regional Council
63 Auburn Avenue N.E.
Atlanta,Ga.

Dear Dr.Mitchell:

I am enclosing detailed reports of my activities in Birmingham and Montgomery and the information you requested concerning Negro T and I Coordinators in Alabama.I have tried to cover every item mentioned in your letter as well as others that I thought important.If,by any chance I overlooked some details please do not hesitate to write me at once.If there are any other facts you desire that I may secure later I will enlighten you.

This week I am doing Birmingham again.I hope to have conferences with Major Mayes of the Veterans Administration Field Office In B'gha m. I hope to be able to get some men on with that agency.If I can get this done I will be going places.I also want to get something done in Birmingham generally as conditions there are bad despite the activities of Jackson and Burnham and their associates.I am enclosing a tear sheet of an advertisement appearing in Sunday's Birmingham News.

The following week I hope to make Gadsden,Talladega and Anniston.I have reports from Mobile which indicate that I must make another visit there.I have very favorable reports from Demopolis,Greensboro,Eutaw and Pickens County indicate considerable progress being made there.In some cases the only trouble is the man.We are having some difficulty in finding a man.I am helping them find one and I hope I will have two or three men on hand shortly.

Very truly yours,
Frank P. Thomas
Frank P.Thomas

FPT/lmt.
Enc.

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PHONE 7032
P. O. BOX 815

June 15, 1946.

Mr. George S. Mitchell, Director
Veterans Services
Southern Regional Council
63 Auburn Ave. N.E.
Atlanta, Ga.

Dear Sir:

I am enclosing a partial report of my activities for the past week. My typewriter broke as I worked so I am unable to complete the report. I will submit the balance Monday after it has been repaired. Although we have several machines in our office we use only one for correspondence.

Very truly yours,

Frank P. Thomas

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FRANK P. THOMAS, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

PHONE 7032
P. O. BOX 815

July 8,1946

Dr.George S.Mitchell,Director
Southern Regional Council
63 Auburn Avenue N.E.
Atlanta,Ga.

Dear Dr.Mitchell:

I am enclosing reports for this week which I hope wou will find interesting and satisfactory.The entire picture in Alabama is some what brighter by the appointment of a Negro officer in the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs.This is a forward step and is being widely acclaimed by the Negro and white press.A copy of the associate press story is enclosed.

I called several officers in Montgomery in an effort to get the information you requested me to get.the number of white veterans enrolled on-the-job training as of June 30th.I could not get a break down on the number of Negroes and whites but there was a total of 25,200 veterans enrolled under Public law 346,this include all phases of training.It does not include disabled veterans which there are approximately two hundred and fifty Negroes and 1500 whites as of May 46th.I shall attempt to get a break down on this in the next few days and will forward complete information as soon as I receive it.

With best wishes,I am,

Yours for a New South
Frank P. Thomas
Frank P.Thomas

FPT/lmt.
Enc.

Bobannon

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PHONE 7032
P. O. BOX 815

July 15,1946.

Dr.George S.Mitchell,Director
Veterans Services
Southern Regional Council
63 Auburn Avenue N.E.
Atlanta,Ga.

Dear Dr.Mitchell:

My attention has been recently call to the wide discrimatory policies now being employed by the State Department Of Education in its supervision of Negro veteran's training in this state.Day after day I find evidences of unfair tactics being used to prevent elgible and capable Negro veterans from receiving the training they so justly deserve.To be perfectly frank,I must confess that throughout the entire state Negro veterans are very far behind in training opportunities as comparable with whites. Although Alabama has probably taken the lead among the Southern States as far as veterans training is concerned,only a totaly blind person would state the situation to be ideal.The state's Negro Coordinators are doing an excellent job in administering the program among their comrades but they receive only $2,040 to $2220. yearly salaries while whites doing the same work are paid $2500. to $2700. with an expense allowance.Negroes have no expense account.

The Trade and Shop Courses being offered for Negroes are far too limited and too few.Imagine large cities like Birmingham Tuscaloosa,Fairfield and Huntsville with thousands of Negro ex-servicemen desiring training as mechanics,printers,tailors,shoe-repairmen etc. with only facilities to care for very,very few.The equipment is obsolete and wholly inadequate to meet the requirement.In other cities like Mobile,Montgomery,Bessemer,Selma, Demopolis,Dothan and Gadsden with no training opportunities in any form.This condition is inexcusable.

Inspite of this dismal picture Negro leadership is not discouraged.However when one considers all angles and learns that this is,after all, a federal program and the responsibility of providing opportunities to all veterans rest with the federal government he is apt to blame the official in Washington.It is not the Negro veteran alone that is being exploited but the

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federal government in Washington also.The State Department Of Education is amply compensated for the training service it renders the Veterans Administration.With the money it is receiving there is no reason for the serious lack of opportunities for Negro veterans.If a city or county superintendent refuses to hire Negro Coordinators or establish shop courses for Negroes then the officials in Montgomery do absolutely nothing about it.There are many other abuses that are too numerous too name that are practiced upon both white and colored.

I learned from conferences with Veterans Administration officials in Alabama that many regulations were being broken by the State Department of Education officials.It was from these indivuals that I learned of the discrimination in the salaries of the coordinators.While these men are critical of the activities and methods employed by the state agency they refuse to do anything about the condition to correct it.

As this is a federal problem and a federal responsibility,I feel General Bradley and the officials in Washington should be informed.I do not mean to imply a lack of interest on the part of Negroes and liberal whites to get something done as both groups are working.This process will take far too long to get moving fully and the needs of the Negro veteran are immediate.Help from Washington should be coming. What steps would you suggest taking?I have Emory Jackson and the N.A. A.C.P. as well as the Southern Negro Youth Congress interested but they may not be able to do the job.So then what?

A t this time the Veterans Of Foreign Wars are conducting a mass membership drive among Negro veterans in Alabama.A Negro organizer has been appoin ted and many post are being formed.As he and others state the organazation is to have the full support of the white post.I am questioning this as I see very little interest being mainfested by the organazation as far as Negroes are concerned.I shall,however,discuss this matter with the State Commander of this group in Birmingham.If you have any ideas on this subject write me immediately.

Very truly yours,

Frank P. Thomas

Frank P.Thomas

FPT/vh.
Encs.

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Veterans Organazations

The Veterans Of Foreign Wars are campaigning for more Negro members and Negro post are being organized in all section of the state. Charters and other regalia of the organazation are being extended Negroes. White post are supposed to be extending the hand of friendship. This all sounds well and good but to me this has a rather strange voice. The same men who constitute the leadership of the VFW are no doubt the same persons who refuse to employ Negro Coordinators or refuse to extend their black comrades the ballot. The official of the Veterans Administration here in Alabama are perhaps the officers of the Veterans Of Foreign Wars and yet they refuse to employ qualified Negro personnel. I hope you will be good enough to let me know what this organazation is doing in other states. There is a Negro post of the American Legion at Tuskegee and a Disabled American Veterans post in Mobile. Yet nothing is happening there for Negro veterans. Tomorrow I hope to meet with State Commanders Of the Three groups to discuss these matters with them.

CENTERVILLE-MARION

In Centerville a movement to secure veterans training is now getting underway with Prof. H. D. Davidson taking the inative. The veterans are being organized and plans for a continous education course have been started. A movement for Negro on-the-farm training is also being started. Considerable interest is being manifested.

In Marion, I found a very deplorable situation. Although two local men have qualified the superintendent refuses to employ Negro Coordinator. About ten Negro veterans are being trained on-the-job training program they are not getting the related study courses. No program has been started for Negroes on-the-farm training but the County Agent, a Mr. Johnson stated he would get one going immediately. There are enough farmers to get a Negro Coordinator employed for this work as the county has no Negro Vocational Agricultural Teacher. Another visit there is being scheduled.

Field Agent

July 18, 1946

Mr. Frank P. Thomas
2615 Eleventh Street
Tuscaloosa, Alabama

Dear Mr. Thomas:

I just got your letter of July 15th. The Retraining and Reemployment Administration is making some special study of the arrangements in Alabama for veterans education. The field representative making the study is named Byron E. Cowart. He is white.

I talked with him here in the office some yesterday and suggested that when he goes back to Alabama - within a week or ten days, as I understand it - he should get in touch with you. He carefully took your name and address, and will look you up. That will be the chance to get over to responsible people the advantages and disadvantages to what is being done in Alabama. While some pressure can be put upon Washington in the next few weeks and months, whatever is done from there will be much more effective if pressure continues to come from Negro veterans and their friends within Alabama.

I should suppose that if your own paper were to carry a careful factual statement of the disadvantages that Negro veterans are under, particularly with regard to trade training, and such copies of the paper could be sent to many influential Alabama citizens, probably a good deal of notice would be taken by the officials and by the white press.

I suggest that before you print an article of this kind, you get Twitty to go over it with you.

I don't think we should try to influence the self-organization of the Negro veterans as far as their choice of organization is concerned. If any considerable number of World War II veterans go into the VFW, they will either begin to achieve some of the things they wish or they will withdraw, if I read them aright. After all, the VFW has been open to Negro veterans all over the South when some other groups have not.

I believe that the VA is about to open up on some Negro employment. I was told recently in New York that a new VA circular #165 is emphatic on the point that vacancies within VA must be held on the basis of merit and fitness without discrimination. I was told by another individual that the same circular subsequently goes into language about non-disturbance of local patterns. I am sending for the circular and will send you one as soon as I can get hold of it.

In general, at this distance, the situation in Alabama would seem to be this: You are further along than any other Southern state in the use of Negro personnel in the educational program. A good deal of work has been done to enlighten the Negro veterans about benefits and rights available to them. The next stage is more organization of the Negro veterans themselves. As that comes about, you will get in the local communities the necessary pressure to put over many of the additional things that are needed. Again, I do not wish to have anything to say as to what organization Negro veterans would be best advised to join. That is up to them. But I do think it very important for them to organize.

I was much pleased with the clipping attached to your letter of July 8th about employment of a liaison officer. Congratulations.

Here is the expense account check for your last trip. Much automobile travel at the ten-cents-a-mile rate will break me quick. Taxi cabs run abit high too. Do you keep for yourself itemized accounts of what you spend? I notice that each figure comes out at round sums. The government taught

me to keep accounts to the penny of what I spent. I lost on it, as you undoubtedly are losing on your travel for me, but I would prefer to have your expense accounts show evidence of careful itemization in your own books.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

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FRANK P. THOMAS, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

PHONE 7032
P. O. BOX 815

July 22,1946.

Dr.George S.Mitchell,Director,
Veterans Services
Southern Regional Council
63 Auburn Avenue N.E.
Atlanta,Ga.

Dear Dr.Mitchell:

I am enclosing report for last week.I am indeed glad to know that Alabama is leading the other Southern States in the matter o f training for Negro Veterans.I am very sorry for the others.The program here would be swell if it was worked properly.There are a number of counties where your local officials-school principals and superinten ents are very prejudiced and biased towards persons of color and will do nothing for the Negro veteran.Under the present system the state department in Montgomery is powerless to do anything.Mobile,Anniston,Marion and many others are concrete examples of this. This is the most objectionable part.

Will you give me the information on the American Legion in your state.At present there is only one post in Alabama-Tuskegee.A few state and local officials of this organazation have expressed interest in Negro veterans recently. I plan to contact them on this issue in the next few days.

Will you please let me know your final decision in the matter of the newspaper conference for the state's Negro editors? I shall confer with Twitty on the matter of the article for the paper.We hope it will do some good.

Very truly yours,

Frank P. Thomas

Frank P.Thomas

BIRMINGHAM

One of the problems confronting many veterans is that of securing business loans. In many communities local banks and other lending agencies are rather reluctant to give consideration or to make loans to any Negro veteran. While many Negro veterans seeking loans are unable to present a feasible plan for making their business a success, there are some who are being denied this opportunity solely on the basis of color. Knowing this to be true I took the matter directly to the Birmingham office of the Reconstruction Finance Corp. A Mr. N. S. Bryon, Counselor of Veterans Affairs in that office gave me complete information regarding the general policy and the procedure to be used in making applications for loans. He first urged the veteran to plan his business well before seeking a loan. The man should have some experience in the business he hope to enter and have some capital. The venture should be a sound one from all angles as no one is anxious to make loans that will not be repaid. Then he should exhaust every possibility of securing from a local bank or lending agency. Failing to obtain cooperation of local lending institutions he should then visit the office of the Reconstruction Finance Corp. which will probably make him a G.I. loan or a regular loan. Mr. Bryon stated that while he and his office were sincerely interested in the matter of rehabilitation of both white and colored veterans many of the latter fail to qualify because their propositions were impractical and not financially safe. He urged our committee and other organizations interested in Negro welfare to advice them properly on the type of business to enter and the procedure to be used so that the venture would constitute a good financial risk. In concluding Mr. Bryon asked me to inform all veterans that his office is opened to help them and their application is invited.

BIRMINGHAM CONT.

Mr.C.L.Coleman,Commander, Negro Post of V.F.W.Birmingham stated that his organization was very much concerned with the discrimatory policy now being employed by the State Department of Education in the veterans training program.Mr.Coleman promised to make an appointment for me with Col.Henry C.Wood(white) State Commander of Veterans Of Foreign Wars.We hope to have this conference at a very early date so that the commander of this group will be informed on the abuses now being forced on the Negro membership of his organization.Mr.Coleman like many other members of the Negro members of the V.F.W.patiently wait and observe the attitude of his white brothers toward situations that affect their group.

DECATUR

Prof.C.L.Sheffield,Principal of the Decatur High School is chairman of the committee.A voters' league has been organized with many veterans registering and participating in all election.A continuious class for veterans has been instituted with twenty two veterans enrolled and two teachers.Plans call for a trade course in auto mechanics which will be offered soon.I plan to stop through there again next week to discuss the matter of a T & I coordinator with the Superintendent. Favorable progress is being made here.

MONROEVILLE

Mr.W.C.Odom,Negro County Agent,P.O.Box 568,Monroeville,Ala. informed me that the veteran's training program for farm veterans there was making rapid progress.There have been over one hundred applications from Negro veterans seeking this type of training.A large number have enrolled and three Negro Agricultural Coordinators have been employed to supervise their work.James McMillion and Lonnie Bridgers have offices in the High school in Monroeville with Obie Kimbrough supervising the program at Beatrice,the north end of the county.This indicates the largest group of Negro veterans to be enrolled on this program in any county I have visited as yet.On the industrial side little or no progress is being made toward the employment of Negro Coordinator.This is understandable as the county is largely agricultural with few industries.There are five or six Negroes enrolled on the job training in white installations.One is being trained as a radio technician in a white shop.The only improvement to be made is Continuous Education classes.Mr.Odom promised to help get this done.The one discouraging aspect of the Negro situation in the county is the lack of political freedom.This is the first county I have visited in which no Negroes were allowed to register.One veteran of World War I,Prof.J.F.Shields,Principal of Monroe County Training school in Beatrice applied for registration and was given a courteous but affective evasion of the issue.He was advised to go each time to a section of the county where the board of directors could not be found. A Rev.L.C.Lambert,pastor of one of the largest churches in the county who also applied for registration was told,"You are getting off on the wrong foot now Rev.",by one of the county officials.The trouble it seems is due to the election of reactionary prejudiced persons to the county offices.The Probate Judge and Sheriff are ardent Negro haters and do all within their power to crush the Negro spirit.

Fullo Azne

July 24, 1946

Mr. Frank P. Thomas
2615 Eleventh Street
Tuscaloosa, Alabama

Dear Mr. Thomas:

I am willing to put $100.00 into the conference of Negro newspaper editors.

I would appreciate it if you would from time to time talk with Mr. Twitty about the details of organization and program.

Also, please keep me informed of the details of your plans. And at the end I shall need an itemized list of expenses.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

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PHONE 7032
P. O. BOX 815

July 15,1946.

Dr.George S.Mitchell,Director,
Veterans Services
Southern Regional Council
63 Auburn N.E.
Atlanta,Ga.

Dear Dr.Mitchell:

The cost of the State Conference Of Negro Newspaper Editors will cost around $150.All editors will be invited as well as representatives of the Veterans Administration,State Department Of Education,State Department Of Veterans Affairs and Veterans Organizations.Reporters and repsresentatives of white newspaper will also be invited.

I feel that much may be accomplished by this and it will be well worth the effort and expense.I have promises from some of the editors that they will be glad to participate.

If this meets with your approval please inform me immediately so that we can get plans made.This is a most opportune time for a venture of this type.Mr.Emory O.Jackson has agreed to assist me in this effort.

Hoping to hear from you on this by return mail.

Very truly yours,
Frank P. Thomas
Frank P.Thomas

FPT/vh.

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PHONE 7032
P. O. BOX 815

August 5, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchel, Director Of Veteran Service
Southern Regional Council
63 Auburn Ave. N. E.
Atlanta, Ga.

Dear Dr. Mitchel:

I am enclosing a detailed report on Mr. Adams in Selma as I I feel it may have a vital affect on the Veterans Training Program there. This clearly indicates what I will probably run into trying to get a Negro coordinator employed and a real Training Program instituted for Negro veterans. If there is any assistance or any suggestions that you may offer we will beth be grateful.

Emory Jackson is going ahead with the Newspaper Conference and we hope to have the Editors of all the papers and other persons directly concerned with the Administration of Veterans affairs present, so real information may be gotten across to the veterans.

I have discussed the matter of discrimination with Mr. Twitty, but he has been so busy with Sparkman's Political Campaign and of late, his own that he have not been able to give much attention to it. We plan to visit Montgomery Friday where we shall inform Mr. C. C. Horton, Director of the Department of Veterans Affairs regarding the appointment of the Negro officer we mentioned last month. It is time that something was done on this matter and I do not intend to sit idly, while time passes on.

I will appreciate any suggestions that you may offer along any line.

Yours very truly,

Frank P. Thomas

Frank P. Thomas

FPT/vbh

I contacted Dr.Williams B[redacted], Chief of veterans' Administration Guidance Center-Selma University.Dr.Bannon who informed me that his particular operation only accommodated disabled Negro veterans.Present facilities only premitted two interviews per day.Dr.Bannon became very much interested in our work and expressed his willingness to cooperate with us in every way possible.He informed me that while the rigid regulation of his office prevented him from helping the thousands of Negro veterans of Dallas county desiring training under 346, he has made inquiry into the local set up of the board of education and found nothing being done.He stated he learned that some equipment for an auto shop had been secured by the board and a veteran school in mechanics would be started soon.

Ben J.Miller -25 Franklin Street-Selma,Ala.,business man also substantiated the statement that nothing was being done for veterans but promised his full support in helping to get a program going there.

Another report on Selma will be made next week.

Siluria (Shelby County)

I contacted Mr. A. R. Thornton (white) operating manager of the J. T. Phillips Textile Industries. Mr. Thornton expresses great interest in the use of Negro labor in one ofhis plants, a spread mill where Chinille spreads are made. He statedthat Colored Workers are showing great interest and are adopting themselves quiet well. Although he does not have any veterans enrolled in the training Program in his plants. He plans to expand the Negro plant which will enable him to hire several.

On a whole very little is being done fof Negro veterans in the County and , being without a car I was unable to visit Columbiana, the County seat which is about thirteen miles from the main highway or railroad. I am writing the County supervisor asking her to lend her assistance to our program. If it become necessary I will make a trip there.

GADSDEN, ALA.

There are ten Negro veterans enrolled and on the job training in Gadsden accordance to information given by H.L.James, Chief coordinator of trade and industrial education for the City Board of Education of Gadsden. Mr.James states that he is very willing to employ a Negro coordinator and one would have been employed had it not been for; 1. The lack of interest being manifested by Negro veterans in the program. 2. The reduction in tuition fee of $20.00 per month per veteran to $12.74. (The State Department and the Veterans' Administration in Washington are trying to settle this matter now.) Mr.James was very favorably impressed with the matter of continuous education classes, trade courses and on-the-job training. He has the application of two Negro veterans who have already been qualified for the position of Negro coordinator. Our plans now call for a mass meeting of all Negro veterans in the county to be held at a church next Sunday, August 4th at which time I am arranging to be present. A Mr.Bryant, Mr.James Assistant coordinator who is directly in charge of veterans promised to attend this meeting. I feel a coordinator will be appointed after this time.

ADDRESSES VETERANS

I spoke at a meeting of the local V.F.W. post and encouraged all veterans to manifest more interest in the training program. I also urged all members of the post to have all veterans present at this meeting next Sunday.

GADSDEN CONT.

PERSONS INTERVIEWED

A Mr.Leo Bayonne,Quarter Master,Negro V.F.W.post and local business man.Mr.Bayonne express grest concern in the movement and promised to secure a list of Negro firms that would train veterans so that on the job-training program would get underway.Another person,Mr.Qunby Berry-650 Bay Street-Gadsden,Ala.Mr.Berry,Adjudant of V.F.W.post who has qualified for the position of coordinator.Mr. Berry is very much interested in getting the program moving and promised to do all within his power.I am sending him 200 of our information cards.Mr.Dan R.Houston (white)of the C.I.O.who promised to do all within his power to help.I am writing him to be present at this meeting .He also stated that he knew you quite well.Rev.C.B. Fox,Editor of the local paper and President of the NAACP who accompanied me on all my trips throughout the city and who was in on each interview.

SELMA, A LA.

C.J.Adams chairman of the committee, 23½ Franklin Street, Selma, Ala. Here in the very heart of Alabama is Black Belt where the Negro population out numbers the white on ratio of three to one, little is being done for Negro veterans. Mr. Adams informed me that not one Negro veteran of World War II has been allowed to register despite the fact that many have college degree, property and are able to meet every other qualification. The Board of Registrars are determined not to allow anything to be done. A number of non-veterans have been registered and at present there are 50 Negro registered voters out of a total Negro population of 60,000. I did learn not from Mr. Adams, that the recent organization of a Negro V.F.W. Post there resulted in permission being given to one hundred Negro veterans of the county to register. I will verify this fact this week. Mr. Adams former 1st. Lt. of the AEF of World War I who has maintained a continuous fight for the emancipation of his people over a period of years is now the victim of one of the most violent cases of racial hate the world has ever seen. As you are probably aware Dallas and its adjoining counties are still living under the Feudal System. Negroes are being held on the large plantations in a state of semi-slavery. (In fact one man Bob Dixon, a plantation owner in Lowndes a neighboring county today faces a federal charge of peonage) During the war many men from this section entered the armed services and their allotments and allowances made their dependents on the plantation somewhat independent of the wishes of these vicious plantation owners. Before the proper papers were filed permitting the proper payment of allowances and allotments Mr. Adams entered the picture. As the only Negro Notary Public in the county he signed hundreds of papers enabling the wives, mother, fathers,

sons, and daughters of Negro servicemen to receive money making them independent of the wishes of the land owners. When Mr. Adams prepared these papers after all white Notary Public had refused to do so he incurred the violent wrath of the white farmers who stated that many of their tenants upon receiving money from their relatives in service moved off their plantations and refused to work. Because of his activities in behalf of his people Adams was framed on a charge of helping two Dallas County selectees evade the draft. The charge is ridiculous and the judge who tried the case almost admitted the same but the jury influenced by this vicious ring of land owners convicted him. A sentence imposing the fine of $250. with a year and a day in prison and the privilege of serving four months and paying the fine was passed. The entire procedure was directed against Mr. Adams for activities in leading the fight of his people. Local whites who are friendly have stated that certain forces admit that Adam's removal from his present office of Notary Public would leave the Negroes of Dallas county helpless and leaderless and no efforts to advance themselves would be made by the Negro populace. His conviction has been substained in the Circuit Court in New Orleans and he plans now to take his case to the Supreme Court in Washington. He has already paid $1,700 but plans to spend $5000. to clear his name of this unjust charge.

Mr. Adams is commander of the local post of V.F.W. At present nothing is being done for Negro veterans training in Selma and Dallas county. The White coordinators of the training program in Dallas county were out of town and not available for an interview last week. But I shall see them Tuesday.

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FRANK P. THOMAS, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

PHONE 7032
P. O. BOX 815

August 12,1946

Dr.George S.Mitchell,Director
Southern Regional Council
63 Auburn Avenue,N.E.
Atlanta,Ga.

Dear Dr.Mitchell:

I am enclosing my report on Selma and Montgomery.I thank you sincerely for your assistance on the Little Rock trip. I shall do all within my power to impress the group of the importance of an intensive organizational drive as well as the appointment of several National Service Officers.I hope this will enable the organization to reach thousands of Negro veterans in the Southern States and interest them in a constructive program.

This week I am speaking to groups in Bessemer and Birmingham.

The information you sent was very helpful as one of the measure has been enacted.

We are making plans for the Newspaper Conference which is scheduled August 27th in Birmingham.

Sincerely yours

Frank P. Thomas

Frank P.Thomas

MONTGOMERY, ALA.

Mr. C. C. Horton, Director of the Alabama Department of Veterans' Affairs stated that the Negro Officer would be appointed within the next two weeks. My name was considered and no doubt would have been given the position. I declined as I do not care to join the service of any agency that will limit my thinking and actions as this group would. I am recommending a Mr. Lucious Smily, coordinator of Negro veterans, Montgomery. As long as I can remain a free agent my work can be far more effective.

I contacted Mr. Smily who was very happy to know that he was being considered for this position which will pay $225. per month with expense. Mr. Smily has 250 veterans in on-the-job-training. Three Negro coordinators will be appointed by September 1st. As yet ne provision has been made for trade courses but present plans call for institution of such courses in the near future.

Major (retired) Dixon, Adjutant of the Department of Alabama American Legion declared his organization has been serious considering the organizing of New Negro posts but as yet no plans have been adopted. He further states that legislation of this nature will be placed upon the agenda of the next State Convention in July 1947.

I have been discussing the matter of Negro V.F.W. post with several persons who feel that the Negro post while authorized by the national body are not any too welcome by many Alabama members. Everyone is watching with keen interest on what will be done with Negro members at the State encampment next year.

SELMA, ALA.

Mr. A. H. Ehrensberger (white) T. and I. coordinator for the Selma City Schools informed me that sixty Negro veterans were enrolled in on-the-job-training programs. These trainees in both white and Negro installations are receiving training in many and varied skills. Plans now being perfected Ehrensberger included for the employment of a Negro coordinator and the establishment of a trade school next month. I talked with a number of persons prominent in the community who gladly welcome the bit of information and promised to lend their full support to the movement.

VETERANS INFORMATIONAL COMMITTEE
2615 NINTH STREET
P. O. Box 815
TUSCALOOSA, ALABAMA

Dr.George S.Mitchell,Director,
Veterans Services
Southern Regional Council
63 Auburn Avenue
Atlanta,Ga.

Field Agent

August 15, 1946

Mr. Frank P. Thomas
2615 Eleventh Street
Tuscaloosa, Alabama

Dear Mr. Thomas:

I have been out on a field trip working at getting something started to improve institutional trade training for Negro veterans, which is why I am so late in replying to your reports of July 23 and August 5.

Mr. Bohannon tells me that the Georgia Department of the Legion at its Savannah convention in July authorized local posts to sponser colored posts which will be chartered as posts constituting an Eleventh District of the Georgia Department. The Eleventh District will hold its convention shortly before the convention of the other ten districts. The Eleventh District may send a delegation to the regular state convention of the Legion. I do not gather that these arrangements are popular with World War II Negro veterans.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

read to Dr. M.

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PHONE 7032
P. O. BOX 815

August 15, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell, Director
Veterans Service
Southern Regional Council
63 Auburn Ave. N. E.
Atlanta, Ga.

Dear Sir:

The Negro Newspaper Publishers of Alabama are holding a one day Conference in Birmingham on Tuesday, August 27 for the purpose of promoting a better Informational Program for Negro Veterans. It has been learned from recent surveys made in this state that thousands of Veterans and other persons interested in their affairs know too little about the many benefits now being available to them and the proper procedures used in securing them. We have asked the Newspapers to help get this information to the public.

We are asking you for a 15 minute discussion of how Veterans fit into your program and, what can be done to create greater interest.

This Program will begin sharply at 9:30 a. m. at the Colored U.S.O. in Birmingham and will continue throughout the day. We are asking you to fill in, sigh and return the enclosed postal card immediately so that we can make out our program. We appreciate your anticipated cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

Frank P. Thomas

Frank P. Thomas

FPT/vbh

Enclosure

Field Agent

August 16, 1946

Mr. Frank P. Thomas
2615 Eleventh Street
Tuscaloosa, Alabama

Dear Mr. Thomas:

If I am not mistaken, we originally agreed that you would work for the Council for three months. You began on May 9, 1946. If agreeable with you, I should like to keep you through the end of this month. Thereafter, unless there are quite special reasons to the contrary, my own tenderness for my budget would dictate letting you go back to your regular duties!

I am planning to get over to Birmingham for your meeting on the 27th. I hope to spend a couple of days before that in Alabama and should like to be in touch with you.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Field agent

August 19, 1946

Mr. Frank P. Thomas
2615 Eleventh Street
Tuscaloosa, Alabama

Dear Mr. Thomas:

I will spend Monday, August 26, in Montgomery and Tuesday, August 27, in Birmingham.

Whom should I see in Montgomery and where will the meeting be in Birmingham?

Also, where on such a short trip could I get a look at the work of one of the Negro coordinators of veterans education?

If this does not reach you until the weekend, you might call me at home on Saturday, August 24, or Sunday morning, the 25th, with directions. My home phone number is Dearborn 5961.

I will drive over to Montgomery Sunday afternoon.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

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PHONE 7032
P. O. BOX 815

A ugust 21,1946.

Dr.George S.Mitchell,Director,
Veterans Services
Southern Regional Council
63 Auburn Ave.N.E.
Atlanta,Ga.

Dear Dr.Mitchell:

I trust you will pardon this slight delay in making my report this week but I am very tired having attended the Convention in Little Rock and made arrangements for the Newspaper Conference next week.

While we both welcome the termination of my services with the Council, I must confess that some type of service of this nature needs to be maintained.I feel the Negro veterans of Alabama have been greatly helped through our information program and I shall carry on a volunteer program as best I can.If at anytime I can be of any assistance to you or to the Council I shall gladly do so.I shall expect you to attend all sessions of the conference next week.You are slated for the principal address which will include the entire veteran's program in the South as you see it.I am suggesting this subject," The Negro Veteran In The South".If this does not meet your approval wire me immediately so that I may change the program.I shall expect some communication from you letting me know when and where to contact you.

I am enclosing letter I received from C.C.Horton,Director of the Alabama Department of Veterans' Affairs informing me of the appointment of Lucius Smiley of Montgomery as Negro Service Officer.Please return this letter as I wish to keep it in my files.In Birmingham I attempted to contact Col.Wood,Commander of Veteran's of Foreign Wars Department of Alabama to inform him of the discriminatory policy now being employed by the State Department of Education in the payment of Negro T.& I. corrdinators.I also wanted to ascertained his attitude on the Negro Posts of the organization.Unfortunately I was unseccessful.But I shall try again this week.In Birmingham on Wednesday I addressed the local branch of the National Negro Business League at their weekly meeting. In my talk I pointed out the responsibilities of the business men to the Negro veteran and urged them to provide greater employment and training opportunities.I am enclosing a clipping from the Birmingham World.I also contacted Kenneth C.Kennedy,National Commander of the

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United Negro and Allied Veterans group who informed me that his membership drive in the South. He stated that his organization now has 15000 members with post in nearly every state.

I was very much disappointed in not seeing Messrs Bohanon and Mergerson at the convention in Little Rock. I should like to know Mergerson address so that I may write him at a very early date. I met several persons who spoke very complimentary of our Mr. Wright's work there. I spent sometime talking with various officials and other interest persons in trying to ascertain the true condition of the Negro veterans in that area. I gathered that a number of veterans were being trained but there was serious like of Negro supervisory personnel. I feel that Arkansas like other Southern States need the employment of Negro contact representatives, training officers and coordinators before its 25000 Negro veterans maybe fully brought into the various training programs. State Manager, James A. Winn of the Veterans' Administration informed me that only 1200 of the 25000 Negro veterans in the State were enrolled in any type of training program.

The enclosed report I hope will give you a good idea of the convention. I would appreciate your frank observation and opinion of this organization and its chances for success. I do feel that as long as we have racial difference, segregation and discrimination in our general population I feel that veterans organization largely composed of the majority group will continue to treat minority veterans in the same manner. The Jewish and Catholic War Veterans Groups found it necessary to form their own organizations and I feel that Negroes will certainly need something of this nature.

With best wishes, I am,

Very truly yours,

Frank P. Thomas

Frank P. Thomas

FPT/lmt.
Enc.

Field Agent

August 23, 1946

Mr. Frank P. Thomas
2615 Eleventh Street
Tuscaloosa, Alabama

Dear Mr. Thomas:

Congratulations on Mr. Smiley's appointment. That's a good job.

Here is Mr. Horton's letter to you back again.

I am anxious to hear more about the Little Rock meeting.

I will be at the Tuesday meeting at the USO in Birmingham prepared to make a talk.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Business League To Hear Thomas

Frank P. Thomas, publisher of the Tuscaloosa Weekly Review, who has made a survey of GI benefits available in Alabama, will be guest speaker at a meeting of the Business Leauge in Cafe Zanzibar at one P. M. Wedneday.

Mr. Thomas has made his investigations for the Southern Regional Council in Atlanta, Ga. His speech will deal with some of his findings with reference to jobs, training and opportunities.

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PHONE 7032
P. O. BOX 815

September 2,1946.

Dr.George S.Mitchell,Director,
Veterans Services
Southern Regional Council
63 Auburn Ave.N.E.
Atlanta,Ga.

Dear Dr.Mitchell:

I am enclosing my final report and expense account.While I am very much needed on my present work,I do feel that there is so much more to be done.I am sure that the thousands of Negro veterans throughout all sections of Alabama are grateful to the Council and your office for at least awakening them to the benefits they so richly deserve.I do not know how you feel but I do think that something has been done for the fellows here.I am hoping Smiley will be able to carry on fully with his opportunities and I shall with the asistance of the other editors do the same.At some future date I will try to get over to Dothan,Opelika and Gadsden.

I am enclosing the pictures with this report as I felt they will be of much help in getting the spirit across to the other states.I had them made as I felt they would give a concrete idea of what was being done here.I hope they will be of assistance.After all of backwards Alabama can take the lead in the program other states can certainly follow.

If at any time I can be of more service to you or the Council in any way please inform me.

With best wishes,I am,

Very truly yours,

Frank P. Thomas

Frank P.Thomas

FPT/lmt.
Encs.

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August 29-30

CENTERVILLE

I came back through this community as Prof. Davidson, the chairman of the Committee did not seem to be doing very much towards getting the program started. I discussed the issue with him and he said that he would be getting along as soon as the fellows manifested more concern themselves. I am going there again one Sunday and try to get them organized into a unit of the National Council Of Negro Veterans. I did not get the chance to see the County School Supt. but I shall try to impress upon him the need of getting a farm program going there at an early date. I talked with many veterans who stated they liked aprogram of this nature and would be glad to attend. We hope to get a General Continuation Class star tedtthere too.

PINEAPPLE

Pineapple is in Wilcox County, one of the most reactionary sections of our fair state. I met Prof. E. Watts, head of the local school whaw stated that little or nothing was being done here for the fellows. He promised to lend his support to an organazation as well as to helping get an On-the-farm movement started. He also promised to help with the General Continuation Classes. Very few Negroes vote in the county.

BEATRICE

The program is moving along nicely here with a large number of veterans enrolled in on-the-farm program. An Agricultural Coordinator has been employed and the fellows like the program very much. There will be classes for General Continuation also. Many plan to enter school. We hope to get an organazation started there soon .

MARION

There are a number of veterans enrolled and on-the-job training here but the white T.& I.Coordinator refuses to conduct related study courses there by denying the trainees the proper study.It is very essential that these classes in theory be conducted along with the practical experience.Two men William Hatch and John Dickerson who are veterans and fully qualified for the position od coordinator was denied employment by Supt."alker.It is a very disployable situation here and the only bright spot is the approval of the Lincoln Normal school as a veteran training center.It is hoped by October an agricuttural coordinator would have been appointed and veterans enrolled in on-the-farm training.President Ralph Martin was out of town so there will be more information coming on this matter.

UNIONTOWN

I talked with several veterans here who informed me that very little is being done.Several unseccessful attempts have been made to organize the veterans but nothing as yet has been accomplished.This situation looks very bad.

GREENSBORO

Here J.Hemphill and Eugene Sawyer local business men informed me that little or nothing was being done for veterans other than on the farm training.Two Negro Agricutural coordinators have been employed and are making nice progress.In the future there will be others added as Negro veterans are rapidly applying for training.I also talked to Brice Reid who is enrolled in on-the-job training.Reid ststes that a Negro T.& I. coordinator would have been employed if the Negro business men had been willing to cooperate.I hope to hold a meeting there with the business men who do not understand the G.I.Bill of Right at a very early date to see if something cant't be done.These men feel that the veterans should work for nothing as the $90.00 being paid by the government is far too much.I still have hopes of getting the program going in this county.

EUTAW

I was very unseccessful in contacting the proper person here but I did find that two agricultural coordinators have been employed.Efforts have been made to organize Negro veterans but as yet nothing has been done. It is hoped that general continuous classes be started at a very early date.

DEMOPOLIS

The Commander of the Negro VFW Post informed me that they have been unable to find a coordinator.A number of boys have been enrolled in on-the-job training and they are hoping to find a T.& I.coordinator in the near future.

TUSCALOOSA, ALA. Another group of ex G.I.'s who are continuing their studies in the General Continuation Classes. Instructor Fred Drake is in charge.

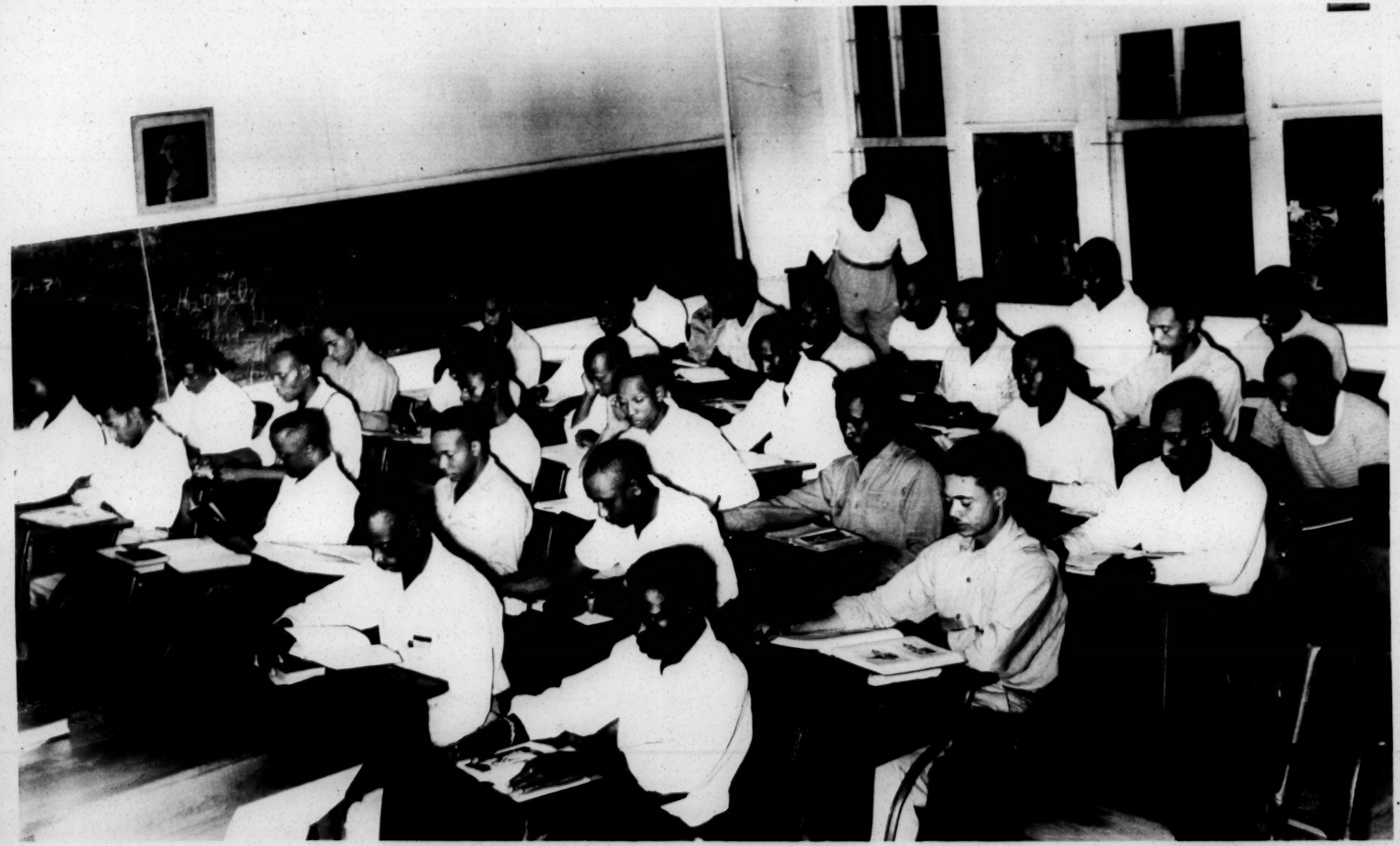
TUSCALOOSA,ALA. Veterans who stopped their schooling far down in the grades or before they finished high school are given a chance to improve their knowledge in the General Continuation Classes of the City School System.The men in the above class are in various grades ranging from second through eleven.They spend six hours each day for five days weekly in school.This class is conducted by George Shelton.They men draw goverment subsistence monthly.

3

Photo by Hodges

TUSCALOOSA, ALA. Veterans on-the-job trainees in Related Subjects Study Class at the Central School. In charge of this group is Jesse Anderson, Coordinator. These men are training for many types of trades and industrial positons including newspaper, salesmanship and other business skills.

Number 6
Photo By
NCD



TUSCALOOSA, ALA. Ohter veterans enrolled in the on-the-job training program spend their 2½ hour study c[redacted] period consulting their various textbooks for the theoretical values of [redacted] their courses as Coordinator Charley D. Wilkinson looks on.

Number 5
Photo By:
MODEL?

TUSCALOOSA,ALA.The veterans class in automobile mechanics look on with intent as Booker Pate,instructor gives them some pointers on valves.

ALL OF CHICAGO, ILL.

Contesting

ay Night, AUGUST

000 CONTEST

- Ad

Field Agent

October 17, 1946

Mr. Frank P. Thomas
2615 Eleventh Street
Tuscaloosa, Alabama

Dear Mr. Thomas:

I am about through with my Louisiana article. For comparison with some other States, I need to know approximately how many people were getting job training in Alabama as of a date somewhere around September 30, 1946. I would have it include all forms of job training other than farm training. That would include cooperative job training and straight job training. I exclude from these forms full-time institutional training.

I am not concerned at this point with a race breakdown - just the total. If you could put through a call or two and collect a round figure for Alabama for that date or thereabouts, and send it to me by collect wire, I would appreciate it.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Fa

January 18, 1946

Mr. W. B. Twitty
Allsboro, Alabama

Dear Mr. Twitty:

When you can, you ought to go to Tuskegee and talk to Dr. Patterson. I saw him in Washington the other day and added something to his enthusiasm for job training and on-the-farm training. He could give you a great deal of help.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

REPORT ON TUSCALOOSA COUNTY ALABAMA

BY

W. B. TWITTY

From Monday January 14th through Friday January 18th I worked in the city of Tuscaloosa and in Tuscaloosa county interviewing individuals, heads of departments and agencies who are interested in serving veterans. I also assisted in the organization of a program of action to assist Negro veterans of that county by helping realize the need for a veterans rehabilitation committee. This committee was formed and a full time chairman appointed and salary arranged.

Arrangements were made with the City Superintendent of Education to put on a full time Negro coordinator of job training. Approximately 45 percent of the veterans in Tuscaloosa are Negro, however, of the 90 veterans now placed on job-training only three are Negro. This figure does not include a few who have been placed in the foundry at Holt which primarily employs Negroes. On-Job training is in the hands of Mr. Copeland, who serves as Coordinator for the city of Tuscaloosa, and Mr. Dowdy, who serves Tuscaloosa county.

Mr. Harris, Director of USES, stated that he had many demands and requests from Negro veterans for job training and jobs but that there were just no opportunities available except service jobs and common labor. He pointed out that if they had a job to be filled they always tried to place a white veteran as this was the desire of the employers.

Under present condition if a Negro applies for a job and is referred to an employer and does not accept the job the USES is through with him.

Mr. Fred Copeland, Coordinator of Job training for the city of Tuscaloosa, said that approximately seventy industries and businesses had been approved for job training, yet only about seven would accept Negroes and these seven were principally Negro establishments. Also, that generally if white men accepted Negroes for training that they would not take the necessary time to do a good training job, but would expect just another laborer cheap. He also pointed out that Ford's Funeral Home could not be approved because Ford would not pay a minimum wage. Ford is a Negro business man.

The Draft Board personnel seemed to be about the most conservative group in the city. They appeared absolutely irresponsible of veterans regardless of color. Haphazardly they refer an individual to a business for employment. Should this opportunity prove unsuccessful they refer the veteran again without regard for training, ability, or job desired. This is particularly true of Negro veterans. They also have an escape by offering the State Veteran Affairs Officer as a solution or veterans cure-all.

Mr. Earl Sumner, State Veterans Affairs Officer, said that fully one-third of his callers were Negroes and that he rarely if ever noted white or colored on claims, that he handled Negro clients courteously and did his best for them. He also pointed out that demands exceeded his ability to meet them and too the office just opened in November.

A clerk in one of the draft boards noted that some Negroes returned nice and humble while others came in drinking, but as a rule all were reasonably polite, yet, she said, "some even say yes, and no, and you know how we feel about that sort of thing."

While at the draft board a Negro youth came in to register. He did not remove his hat and to the lady he answered, "yes, sir, and no, sir," He was not impolite. He just seemed to be young and freightened and maybe didn't know what to say or do. The lady agreed that something should be done for the returning Negro veterans but what. She did not know what--what to do, or how.

Also, while at the draft board a clean Negro youth appeared as companion for a returned buddy. I asked him how long he'd been out. He replied, "about two months." Then I asked if he were working or going to shhool. He said he had to work but that his best offer had been fifteen dollars per week, and with two children and high as every thing was he just couldn't make it. This young man had finished high school and had served for three and a half years and had been wounded and had come home. But he found at home no counsel, no serious advice, no place to turn, to live, to work.

Construction companies in Tuscaloosa need thirty carpenters but union officials will not approve apprenticeships. Also, the plumbers have been very tight in training men for jobs, yet, due to some changes that may be expected in the Veterans Administration and job training administration, they have had a change of heart.

The Tuscaloosa Business Men's Veteran's committee has failed to assume any responsibility for either white or Negro veterans. The leaders of this committee are apparently very busy men and though they feel the need and responsibility have just simply neglected it. They agree that something must be done, and suggested that a Negro Veteran's Rehabilitation committee would prove helpful in assisting Negro veterans.

After thoroughly discussing the possibility of establishing a Negro Veteran's Rehabilitation Committee we decided to hold a meeting on Tuesday evening and later met again on Thursday morning. At the Thursday morning meeting a committee was formed and a chairman elected. The committee is composed of two world war I veterans and three World War II veterans.

The Committee's first action was to have set aside a corner of the new Negro education and recreation center for a Veteran's Information center. Also, the committee arranged for the full employ of a veteran who will assist, instruct, and guide other veterans. This gentleman will serve as chairman of the committee and will keep a record of each veteran as he returns and just what happens to him. They will also work to have all good Negro businesses and farms in the city and county approved as job-training centers. They will examine applicants for G. I. Loans and take up personally the approved applications with the local lending agencies. A course will be offered in citizenship and an effort will be made to register all qualified veterans for voting.

The information card will contain the following information:

1. Name_____ 2. Marital Status_____

3. No. Dependants_____ 4. Physical ability_____(wounded, etc.)

5. Education_____ 6. Specific skills_____

7. Former employer_____ 8. Type work_____

9. Further training desired_____ 10. Type training_____

11. Employed now_____ 12. Type work_____

13. Type employment desired_____

After two prolonged discussions with Dr. H. C. Pannel, Superintendent of City Schools, who is also chairman of the Tuscaloosa Business Men's Vetran's Committee, he agreed to put on a full-time Negro Coordinator of Job Training. He also contacted his white Coordinator, Mr. Copeland, and Mr. Harris of the USES regarding the Negro Coordinator's using a desk in the USES Office for interviewing Negro veterans. He said that Mr. Harris would feel more like doing it if requested by the committee he served as chairman, and that it would only be a matter of formality.

No one, either white or colored, knew anything about the Job Training Program for farmers. Meetings had been scheduled but were postponed due to floods.

Mr. Harris of the USES pointed out that there was no demand for job training on farms or farm jobs, and that until the veterans used up their hundred dollars per month they wouldn't be interested. "You know a farm boy," he said, "they just cain't wait to get away from the farm, and once away will not return until they have to."

Mr. O. N. Andrews, County Agent, pointed out that very few returning veterans either white or colored were interested in buying farms or working on farms.

Mr. Jack Hargrove, Principal of the Tuscaloosa County Industrial High School, pointed out that from fifteen to thirty Negro veterans would come to the school and just hang around. They were neither on job training, in school, or working. They were just loafing.

Several times I heard criticism of a similiar group of young Negroes who were not working but just drawing unemployment compensation to loaft Often they boarded buses in large groups and just transferred from one section of the City to another with no apparent objective such as school or employment. Both white men and women criticized this group as being rather loud and said that they often dropped boastful remarks about what they would or wouldn't do.

February 1, 1946

Mr. W. B. Twitty
Allsboro
Alabama

Dear Mr. Twitty:

Thanks for your notes of January 23. Evidently Alabama has what I have not heard of before -- a plan for payment by VA to the state of $20 a month for each veteran trainee. I assume you have found out about this in great detail. I see that it is called "Diversified Occupations."

In your note about the man Russell on the Birmingham Post you quoted Russell as saying that the master plumber's union passed a resolution that a veteran's father must have been a veteran before they could train him as a plumber. Did you mean that the veteran's father must have been a veteran, or a plumber?

I have passed a rule that travel advances will be reimbursed to the Council by deductions out of the next two travel checks at the rate of half of the outstanding advance from each coming up check. I believe you have no advance, but I notify you of the rule. It can be violated in case of need.

Sincerely yours,

George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services

GSM:jm

Field Agent

Feb. 9, 1946

Dr. Mitchel:

I'm of the attitude that a very great deal more ca n be done in a quiet, sustained fight in the state of Ala. than in a rough highly publicized scrap. However, I feel it imperative that pressure be brought to bear upon State directors of Federal Agencies to make them employ Negroes in a professional capacity. I believe that once the program works in Tuscaloosa it will be much easier to sell other departments on the idea. I find considerable conservatism in the heads of State Departments and Agencies. I believe after I've made a survey of Mobile and Dallas Counties (I suggest Dallas because it is a heavily Negro populated county) I will be better able to say just where and when to push.

One thing, the labor unions are not assuming the responsibility they could and should to bear pressure on USES and the V. A.

Please feel free to correst me on any occasion and if ever you feel I'm not doing the job you want, just let me know.

Twitty

Field agent

February 14, 1946

Mr. W. B. Twitty
Allsboro, Alabama

Dear Mr. Twitty:

Many thanks for your notes of February 9th. You are really getting the dope.

I sent Jim Folsom a copy of a recent publication of the Council's that may help him.

We ought to begin to think about the next state you will work in. I suppose Alabama should have another six weeks or two months of your time. After that, what do you say to Texas or Oklahoma?

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Field Agents

February 27, 1946

MEMORANDUM TO ALL FIELD AGENTS:

Here is a new article with job training in it.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Field Agent

February 28, 1946

Mr. W. B. Twitty
Allsboro, Alabama

Dear Mr. Twitty:

I thought about phoning you and asking you to go up and look at Columbia, but it seemed to me I had a duty to look into it for my own education, so I went. I am sorry to say that I found nothing special there to account for the trouble, which points to the conclusion that the same thing could happen to any similar southern town with no more provocation than occurred there.

I will be here Monday and Tuesday, the 4th and 5th. Then I am going to New Orleans for the rest of the week. If you would prefer that we meet at New Orleans, you are welcome to take the train down there. The meeting is at Dillard University on the 7th and 8th - about veterans. Otherwise, we could meet over here the 4th or 5th.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Allsboro, Ala.
Feb. 25, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
Atlanta, Ga.

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

I have no 5 X 8 paper so will type my last weeks notes when I get some.

I went to Tuskegee and found that the Negro Vocational Supervisor of Ag. Education has a meeting scheduled at Tuskegee for March 9th to inform Negro Agriculture teachers about the state program for training veterans in job training.

I saw Dr. Odis and he said that his county agents didn't know about the program but that he would be happy to cooperate. He ask if I would speek to all of his county agents in groups of seven on job training and I agreed since he was calling the meeting s especially for this. I cleared with the State Department of Vocational Education in order to protect Mr. Floyd. I went from Tuskegee to Montgomery and from Montgomery to Selma and from Selma to Bibb County and then over to Hale County. I would have called you regarding the district county agents meetings but knew you were out of town and since Dr. Odis already had a letter going out to all agents and was willing to call a special meeting, I agreed. I hope this meets with your approval.

I hope to have the article prepared within a week.

The Negro Coordinator will go to work in Tuscaloosa County March 1st, and will ad we planned interview at the USES.

Sincerely,

W B Twitty

W. B. Twitty.

PS: Just heard about some trouble in Columbia, Tenn. Will check and call you. Have a friend who is editor of a paper there and can run up from Allsboro on a weekend if you don't have a man close.

would prefer working Texas - May not Be able to work Stater other than Ala - will See you -

Field Agents

March 13, 1946

Mr. W. B. Twitty
Allsboro, Alabama

Dear Mr. Twitty:

Thanks for your letter of March 11th.

As to the meetings of colored veterans called by county agents, I am all for the meetings. The proviso would be that you not lay yourself open to the accusation that at such a meeting, or meetings, you yourself expounded in any detail the various official programs of veterans benefits. I should think the knack would be in getting the county agents, themselves, as members or chairmen of the County Agricultural Agency Boards (if they have such things in Alabama), or state or county or federal veterans agency officials to do the expounding. You can exhort, but don't expound. You understand why: we would be accused of adding to the troubles of the responsible officials by giving incorrect information.

Sorry you see trouble coming up in Muscle Shoals. Whatever you can do to get local people set to cure it, you should do.

My budget begins to squeek a bit about mileage expense. If you go over into Texas, do you think you would definitely lose money at four cents a mile?

My rough plan for Texas would be to pick a Negro veteran also, and let the two of you work the state by agreement. You might concentrate on a survey and let him work mainly on reaching Negro leadership. I hear of such a boy whom I might be able to pick up at Waco.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

P.S. Your expense account of March 11, 1946, covers the period of "March 4 through 29". I have assumed that this is in error for March 4 through 9.

Allsboro, Ala.
March 11, 1946

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

I did not receive Mrs. Warwick's letter regarding the meeting in Birmingham. I came through Birmingham Saturday night on my way from Tuskegee but did not know about the meeting until I arrived home Sunday.

I have had several request from County Agents to speak to groups of colored veterans. Do you think such meetings would be advisable. I have thus far contacted all county agents and all vocational teachers who work with colored veterans, and committees similiar to the one in Tuscaloosa are being formed to assist the veterans.

I have found the white directors of vocational agricultural education most sympathetic and cooperative. I will cover this in my report which I am now preparing.

I have been unable to check on the report Mrs. Warwick sent from the Atlanta Constitution, and will do so in the very near future.

Racial tension has mounted in the M uscle Shoals area. There have been several incidents on busses which could have touched off a situation similiar to Columbia, Tenn. I believe it advisable to ~~xxx~~ check into the particulars. At once it seems the trouble is between rural white and rural negro working together in a local industry which is concentrated in the Muscle Shoals area.

You may reach me by phone at Allsboro 2141.

Sincerely,

W B Twitty

W. B. Twitty

Eula Agent

March 5, 1946

Mr. W. B. Twitty
Allsboro, Alabama

Dear Mr. Twitty:

Enclosed is a clipping from this morning's Constitution about the Veterans Administration taking over the supervision job on the on-the-job training program. Dr. Mitchell has called one person in each of our Southern states - except those in which we have a field agent - and asked him to get it on the grapevine. The Veterans Administration makes its own appointments from applications submitted to it on Civil Service Form 57. If a fair proportion of Negro applicants get jobs as supervisors, that will put the Negroes in the official family and give them a better opportunity to take advantage of the benefit. We are getting the field agents to start the ball rolling in each of their states.

Mr. J. R. Morton, director of continuation education at the University of Alabama, wrote us recently inviting Dr. Mitchell to a regional meeting of the American Association of Adult Education to be held in Birmingham on March 7,8, and 9. He said a considerable part of the meeting would be devoted to educational work for veterans. Dr. Mitchell wrote him that he was scheduled to be in New Orleans at that time, but that you could attend if you did not have other pressing matters scheduled. Sorry not to let you know about it sooner, but we expected to see you in Atlanta.

Sincerely,

Anna S. Warwick

Field agent

April 11, 1946

Mr. W. B. Twitty
Allsboro, Alabama

Dear Mr. Twitty:

Your report of April 7th is fine.

Committees will take some nursing, but they will certainly pay off if nursed.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Allsboro, Ala.
April 7, 1946

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

Last week I met with groups in Tuscaloosa, Birmingham, Tuscumbia, and Sheffield. You will be interested to learn that the Negro coordinator of job training in Tuscaloosa has been able to get about 33 veterans placed since being employed. He is ready for an assistant. We have passed the news on to all Alabama editors about getting local stories on the boys and putting them in the papers.

Efforts to establish committees have met with success. I believe however it is a better policy to get good ones going as we did in Tuscaloosa instead of just starting something to leave it die. We have a working agreement from Negro leaders to let Tuscaloosa serve as the State headquarters for such committtees and will have a special meeting as a part of the State NAACP Conference at Dothan. There will have State officers selected and from the several local committees we expect to work with adjoining counties. For instance, we will set up committees in Colbert, Morgan, Madison, and Lauderdale counties in North Alabama. Then we will set up committees in Dallas, Marengo, Perry, Bibb, Hale, and Greene Counties. These are Black Belt Counties. We already have committees in Tuscaloosa, Birmingham, Pickens, and Montgomery. We will try to get counties strategically organized where we have local leadership sufficient to draw from. In the meantime we will make it a policy of counties to assist other counties in setting up committees. Mr. Thomas, Editor of the Alabama Citizen and Mr. Wilkerson, Coordinator of Job Training both from Tuscaloosa will dedicate considerable time to this work. Mr. Thomas' paper, which is the only news paper that reaches the colored people in the black belt, will be used as an advertising agency or medium.

This coming week I will be in Dallas, Marengo, and Perry counties. I will also meet with two committees in North Alabama on the week end. If you wish me to go to the NAACP conference I will arrange meetings on the way down and back.

Sincerely,

W. B. Twitty

W. B. Twitty.

Field Agent

April 29, 1946

Mr. W. B. Twitty
Allsboro, Alabama

Dear Mr. Twitty:

Here is a letter I had from Mr. Tatum at Beaumont. He looks to me like he is well trained for one so young. Won't you please look him up promptly after you get to Texas?

If he happens to be the guy you would like to have work with you, send him to see me, and then I will hire him and send him back to work with you as you may wish.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Allsboro, Ala.
May 13, 1946

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

Texas is a mess. I frankly don't like it and I don't see how I can do much more there. There is an unholly allience between the State and the V. A. The V. A. resents it in the lower quarter, but they can't even say anything. Nothing, absolutely nothing is being done for colored veterans in a way of job training. A few are in school, and naturally a few are receiving on-the job training, but an organized program is yet to be created. There is no consistency in training methodology, or enrollment practice. I think Tatum will make a good man. I will help in whatever way I can until he gets started.

I could do the job there, but it will take more energy than I have to spare. I can not take your money and not deliver the goods. I am going to Tuscaloosa today. I will see Frank and call you from there.

Sincerely,

W B Twitty

W. B. Twitty

Feild Agent

May 14, 1946

Mr. W. B. Twitty
Allsboro, Alabama

Dear Mr. Twitty:

Mr. Thomas came over Thursday and we engaged him for three months at $225.00 a month. I Like him.

You have him pretty well instructed already as to what to do, so that in a couple of hours of energetic conversation we got things planned. But it will be necessary for you to talk with him at length when you get an opportunity, in order to polish up his plans.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

HOTEL STEPHEN F. AUSTIN

Operated By Stephen F. Austin Hotel Company

AUSTIN, TEXAS

April 27, 1946

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Washington
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New Mexico
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STEPHEN F. AUSTIN
Beaumont
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Brownwood
HOTEL BROWNWOOD
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CORONADO COURTS
JACK TAR COURT HOTEL
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Laredo
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HOTEL LUBBOCK
Marlin
HOTEL FALLS
San Angelo
HOTEL CACTUS
San Antonio
ANGELES COURTS
HOTEL MENGER
★
Virginia
Mountain Lake
HOTEL
MOUNTAIN LAKE
★

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

Just a note: I'll try to see you man at Beaumont this weekend and not later than first of next week.

Do what ever you think best about Thomas. You have his address.

I will write more on this subject tonight.

I think it's a pretty good idea for us to make some friends here — will see what I can do.

Sincerely
[illegible]

Field Agent

May 17, 1946

Mr. W. B. Twitty
Allsboro, Alabama

Dear Mr. Twitty:

I am sorry to hear that Texas is so bad.

Can't you come over here and tell me about it?

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Gillsboro, Ala.—
June 4, 1946

Dear Dr. Mitchel:

Things are going better in Texas and I have a definite commitment from Mr. Davis a friend of mine who will assume duties for the State Dept. of Education in Texas in July— That he will put on Negro Coordinators in proportion to needed demand. Also, he will set up Special Schools.

I planted a little seed when in Texas, before which is apparently bearing ~~bearing~~ rewards— Will give details when I get to my typewriter—

I am sure, if Saturn will concentrate on getting interest and demand stirred up that we will be able to get a beautiful job done after July-

The Mess and Stink I pointed out before is leaving to the front. I have the article in mind and will get it to you in a day or so.

We really should get out an article before July 1, 1946 and not even mention what is going to happen — But what is. I may try to frame such a short article for a news release & Papers-

I will have to discuss Oklahoma before making a commitment. If things don't start turning in Texas in July — I'll go back for a few days for you. However, we can't tell before the middle of July or First of August.

Enclosed is a check which the Treasurer did not sign - I had to charge five cents mileage to nearly break even -

Sincerely -
W. B. Turtly -

We elected Jim Folsom -
Thank God!

Field Agent

June 7, 1946

Mr. W. B. Twitty
Allsboro, Alabama

Dear Mr. Twitty:

Sorry about the check. Here it is back in good order.

What you say about Texas is teasing. I hope for the story soon.

Harry Wright is here now, writing up Arkansas. He is willing to go to Oklahoma next week, so I will send him, and you can scratch it off your list.

Stay in Texas as long as you think necessary, and then suppose you come back into Atlanta for us to talk about what next.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Field agent

June 14, 1946

Mr. W. B. Twitty
Allsboro, Alabama

Dear Mr. Twitty:

I hear nothing from you. What develops?

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Allsboro, Alabama
June 14, 1946

Dr. Geroge S. Mitchell
Southern Regional Council
Atlanta, Ga.

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

There has been very serious illness in my immediate family for the past week. The situation has improved and I will leave for Texas again Sunday the 16th.

So far as survey is concerned I think we have the picture well enough for an article and for planning a program of action. I will work directly with colored leaders this time in seeing what can be developed. I am going from here to Beaumont, and from there to Houston. I will call you from there.

Unless something very important comes up I will make this my last trip to Texas. I plan to be in Texas two or more weeks. If things are going to suit you and you think it all right I will plan to quit the council as soon as we close this chapter. Things are going very well in Alabama and we have prospects for several new coordinators.

I'm sorry to have lost this week. Just take it out of my salary for next time.

Sincerely,

W. B. Twitty

W. B. Twitty

Allsboro, Alabama
June 18, 1946

Mr. George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services
Room 432, 63 Auburn Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

My dear Mr. Mitchell,

In regard to your letter of June 14th, to my son, W.B. Twitty, W.B. is now in Texas.

Very truly yours,

Lyda B. Twitty

(MRS.) LYDA B. TWITTY

Houston, Texas

June 19, 1946

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

Tatum and I did some promising work in Beaumont and Port Arthur.

At this time there are a few outstanding veterans problems in Texas.

no. 1. The lack of a local community program whereby approval of job training stations may be made quickly and efficiently.

At the present the firm or individual must write Mr. Willman, of the Governor's committee in Austin, he in turn writes the V.A. and they in turn contact a local man and he surveys the place and writes Willman — and by approve it. According to law the V.A. can not approve training stations for P.L. 346 —

also, no ~~[illegible]~~ provision is made for supervision — At first I thought I was just hearing but 'tis so — I wonder what happens to the money provided for said supervision and study.

No. 2. On the job training veterans are not being trained — It is thus far purely subsidized employment. An employer paying $100 per month gave a veteran a job at $35 and the veteran drew $65 from the V.A. That is not an uncommon situation. However, the V.A. did cut the Boy Off — the V.A. and State Officials are concentrating on schools in preference to on-the-job training. The only excuse is that schools offer an easier escape from enrolling, supervising, checking and clearing the veteran. Personally, the School has it's place — but successful on-the-job training so far as we are concerned will be doubly valuable — (1) It places the man in the job and on the job. (2) It gives us an excuse to break into the so-called closed shops to Negroes.

No. 3. No Negro Veterans are allowed to the apprenticeship training under the Supervision of the Dept. of Labor.

It was the Area Director of apprenticeship training who proposed the plan whereby the Governor would name a committee as an approving agency. Mr. Edwards, the Director in Dallas, has an arrangement whereby his local men go out and work up a list. He sends the list to Will Mac and it is blanket approved.

These special G.I. Vocational schools had 5,339 Veterans enrolled as of May 17, 1944. They figure on a possible of 24,390 and estimate it may reach 40,000. There are 254 counties and apparently there will be a program in each county.

Cogell County has been the no one experiment. They have 9 people employed — 4 Voc Ag. classes, 2 Distributive Occupations, 2 trade and Industrial classes and, 1 lady counselor for home problems.

The schools that now exist have ~~been~~ been formed by the County Supt. of Education and the County and city Boards of Education in direct conjunction with the V.A. without any over-all state supervision except Mr. Williams Approval Committee.

(This arrangement has been largely responsible for the lack of organization of training in Texas.)

Starting in July the State Board of Vocational Education will take over. They will be paid $29 per trainee by the V.A. They will in turn pay $25 to the local school board. They will employ a State Supervisor of Negro training and will employ Negro personnel. It looks pretty good for Negro except they must have ~~ten~~ 50 ~~to~~ or more veterans before a school can be established.

They can, however, give instruction to veterans in any subject, provided there are sufficient numbers.

As of July 1, 1946 State Voc. Edu. Board will be responsible for all training except apprenticeships, and on-the-job and institutional. Apparently, the V.A. plans to keep this baby.

The V.A. has more personnel in Texas than any place I've heard of. But as stated before, none are negro.

As I see it our most effective steps will be: (1) Create widespread interest in negro voc schools. (2) See if something can't be done about the approval of training stations and supervision on-the-job trainees. (Labor apprentice ships and U.S.E.S. would love to handle this for the fumbling V.A.) (3) Through negro papers and leaders get businesses to employ negro trainees and create interest in part of veteran to demand type training desired.

Without a doubt someone must bring a pressure to bear on the U.A. and the Governor in regard to Negro personnel, on the job training, and opportunities for Negro Veterans.

Too, though Mr. Lowery, of State Voc. Edu. Austin, said they'd give a Nigger all that's coming to him - it's worth checking on - I didn't like the way he said "all." Mr. Davis who will be in more immediate charge will, I think be reasonably fair.

I am going to try to write an article or two for some of the Texas Papers -

If you can afford it, two men would not be too many for this State - another man like Saturn from around Waco or Dallas would be good -

Sincerely
W. B. Twitty

Field Agent

July 5, 1946

Mr. W. B. Twitty
Allsboro, Alabama

Dear Mr. Twitty:

I have got your useful notes which were mailed July 1. I took your statement about coming over to Atlanta this week as intention. As you have not showed up, I suppose you meant for me to get in touch with you and confirm.

This coming week, July 8-13, would be bad for us to meet in Atlanta, as I am to be in Nashville at Fisk July 9-11 and in New York the 12th. Could you conveniently run up to Nashville for the 9th or the 10th or the 11th? If you can, just come ahead. I could be reached through Dr. Charles Johnson's office. I will be leaving the late afternoon of the 11th.

From what little I know I would prefer for you to proceed to write up now your material on Texas; whether in publishable form is not of importance. I would like to have anyway a connected account of it as inclusive as you can make it.

Tatum's work plus your visits thus far is all I feel I should spend on Texas, through I am sensible of the weight of your recommendation of two men full-time in the State.

The figures in your last notes about training in Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi are most interesting. I have a few questions: (1) Am I right in assuming that those are figures of certificates of elegibility and entitlement issued, or are they figures of person actually known to be in training? If so, I don't see how the VA gets that

unless it receives reports from the State education authorities.
(2) In the Texas figures you give me you have a line reading:

Institutional (Trade and Indus)	4,427	698

Below that is a total given as 36,003. I can't find how the figures given make that total. And what is meant by Institutional (Trade and Indus)? Do you omit the figures for plain ordinary institutional? You gave such a figure for Louisiana and Mississippi.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Field Agent

July 24, 1946

Mr. W. B. Twitty
Allsboro, Alabama

Dear Mr. Twitty:

Please do send in the stuff on Texas and also the other material that we discussed at Nashville. I am a little puzzled as to how long I need Thomas. Please let me know about it.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Field Agent

August 6, 1946

Mr. W. B. Twitty
Allsboro, Alabama

Dear Twitty:

I know you are dreadfully busy, but couldn't you find time to write up your Texas stuff and send it on in, and full comments on Alabama?

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

W. B. TWITTY
WHOLESALE LUMBER

ALLSBORO, ALABAMA
PHONE 2141

TUSCALOOSA
ALABAMA

August 12, 1946

Dr. Geo. S. Mitchell
Atlanta, Ga.

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

Please forgive me for my delay in getting the article to you. I actually have no excuse, but it seems that I have a hundred and all are valid. My aunt has been at the point of death for a month, my political campaign has been before me, and I have been trying to get a new saw mill in operation.

I think you may cut Thomas off any day now--it seems that the situation is well enough in hand that we can keep just as good a touch on it as you will need.

I believe this article will be more effective as is, rather than fill it with statistics. If you think the statistics necessary, you have them on hand. If you want it revised. Send it back with suggestions.

It is accurate and should be published. I am x just sorry we didn't get it out earlier.

The CIO has not given me any satisfaction as yet. I don't have to have them to get elected, but would appreciate their supporting me, for it would give me an excuse to do more for them. We may need additional campaign funds--if you have contacts that would be interested in electing a Congressman who will stand up after Rankin as another Southerner and denouce him and every thing he stands for, let me know.

Sincerely,

W. B. Twitty

W. B. Twitty

PS Will send you a note on the Ala. Coordinators in a day or two.

By: Bradley Twitty

VETERANS TRAINING IN TEXAS 1946 STYLE

After taking a look at veterans training in my own home state, Alabama, I decided it might be of interest to compare the training in my state with some other Southern State. Since Texas is looked upon as a forward and progressive Southern state I decided to take a look there.

It took me nearly three months to just get an accurate glimpse at what was going on in the state which sent nearly 800,000 men to service, and of this number an estimated one out of seven was a Negro.

First I went to Austin, the Capitol, to find out what was going on in a broad administrative and state-wide way. While in Austin I interviewed State Selective Service Officials, the State Service Commissioner, the Chairman of the Governor's committee for veterans training, State USES officials, and others.

After I fixed the Texas plan for training veterans in my mind I decided to go out into the country and cities to see how it really worked. Being a farmer, I'm use to seeing things work on paper, then back-fire in your face on the land.

At first, and from the paper, veterans training in Texas looked like the real McCoy. I guess, on paper, it is a good plan, but the only criticism for the on-the-job training was that I just couldn't find any training. All I found, with the exception of ~~Rx~~ disabled veterans, was veterans with jobs, and at the same time receiving government checks in the amount of $65/a month if they were single and $90 if they were married.

I thought we knew how to pass the buck in the Army and in Alabama—I guess we do know how in Alabama, but I never saw so much ~~of~~ delay and buck passing, all at the veterans expense.

As I said in my article on Alabama, the Veterans Administration supervises disabled veterans, but this is only a small ~~portion~~ percentage of the total number desiring ~~xxxxxxx~~ on-the-job, and other types of training in Texas.

~~Thxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ Chief obstacles to veterans training were: No. 1, there was no organized supervision of the ~~training~~ trainee. In Alabama we have a Coordinator for every twenty-two trainees. In Texas I found no Coordinators anywhere. Although the Veterans Administration was paying $29 per training for supervision, yet they ~~xxx~~ lacked on-the-job training supervisors. After all, on-the-job-training, is designed to be training, ~~x~~ not just employment.

No, 2. there was no organized, efficient, approval agency or system. Under the Texas Plan, the Governor appointed a veterans committee. At a distance it looks as if someone were politicing to take veterans training and control out of the hands of the State Department of Education, the legal and established, training agency. Instead of delegating the responsibility of veterans training to the State Department of Education, as the Governor of Alabama, and many other states did, The Governor of Texas appointed a three man Governor's Committee, Appointments were made to men who fulltime employees of the State, or/held political jobs, such as the Chairman, Mr. A. O. Wilman, Director of Veterans Affairs.

It was the responsibility of this committee to do the approving of all the local training stations for on-the-job-training. Yet they had no money or personnel for this work. Whereas, in Alabama the local Coordinator is responsible for enrolling, and surveying, and recommending the approval of training Stations. In Texas the Governor's committee depends upon Veterans Administration Training Officers, to make their survey for them. The number of VA training officers is naturally limited, because they are not supposed to serve anyone other than disabled veterans. Yet by political maneuvering, or some kind of unholly allience, the VA training officers make the survey and Mr. Willman in Austin does the approving. The system is: The veterans go to their V. A. contact office and execute form 1950, then they go out and find a job which offers a training opportunity, then they get their employer to make up a training program with reading material and curriculum, then the employer writes Mr. Willman at Austin, and he in turn writes the Veterans Administration in Dallas, and they in turn write the training officers, and the survey is made when they can, and the report is sent back to Wilman.

Mr. Wilman automatically approves the training station. Yet, by law the V. A. has no authority to approve training station under Public Law 346. Actually they do the approving but have to make this round-about maneuver in order to dodge the law. The result is that it takes a veteran from six weeks to six months to get approved and to get his station approved and to get enrolled.

But after he is enrolled no one ever checks on him--the only person responsible for his training and supervised study is his employer. The question which I would like to have answered is how can an ordinary operator of a garage or shoe shop be qualified to draw up a curriculum. Whereas in Alabama where the State Department of Education is responsible for curriculum, supervision, and approval of training Stations, and have full time employees working out problems, courses of study, and reading and reference material. In Texas they took this phase of training out of the hands, or in fact, never let it get into the hands of the State Department of Education. My personal observation, is that the Veterans Administration desired to discredit the on-the-job training program so that it would be worthless, whereby they might be given authority to administer both training under Public law 346, for all veterans as they now administer training for veterans under PL 16.

Another interesting phase of veterans training is the apprenticeship program under the department of labor. Although they had 3500 veteran apprentices in April, not a single one was a Colored veteran. They wouldn't come out right and say Negro we have no place for you, instead they passed the buck by saying he lacked seniority, or some other such answer. ~~Apprenticeship~~

Apprenticeship training officials would have me believe that they were very interested in the veteran and in treating all veterans with equal opportunity, but that the AFofL Unions will not stand for colored veterans being included in the apprenticeship program. Actually only about fifty-percent of the veterans under the apprenticeship training program are in Union shops--they couldn't explain what a colored boy or two had slipped into the training circle every now and then.

All over the State highly inadequate trade and vocational schools for Negro veterans were set up and approved and the school officials were drawing money from the government for giving training, yet the qualifty of faculty, and the available facilities completely on a racketeer basis. Instead of local education officials, V. A. officials, and the state governors committee using a little initiative to get a first class trade and industrial school for training colored veterans, they permitted these small schools to form and grow at government expense. If the same money were spent on a public school, it would be a permanent asset to the community, and would most likely have a little better facilities and faculty.

Texas has several county and community trade and industrial schools offering vocational training on a local level to veterans. This is not on-the-job-training, but does involve supervised study, as well as practical shop training. This promises to be one of the great programs to come out of the Texas plan. The only failing in the beginning of this program was that the State Department of Education had nothing to do with it. All was handled on a local or county basis. That is, the County or City Boards of Education would contract with the Veterans Administration to furnish this training.

In Alabama, the State Department of Education contracts with the Veterans Administration, and in turn contracts with local county and city boards of education. They have as a result a standard program in all of the Counties. ~~[illegible]~~

If veterans training is not to completely collapse several reforms are imperative. Number one is to put the training program in the hands of experienced training officials and educational leaders, and take it out of the hands of politicians and government officials who like to have it as a political snow ball--the further they roll the innocent veterans ~~[illegible]~~ training ball the larger it gets, and the larger it gets the more personnel they are able to employ, supervise, and control.

Field Agent

September 3, 1946

Mr. W. B. Twitty
Allsboro, Alabama

Dear Brother Twitty:

I am sorry I did not get to go with you to see Haigler. Did you have any luck? Is there anything I can do?

You are so busy campaigning that your Texas article is a couple of knotches from your usual high level, in my opinion. We cannot interest the Council much in publishing a comparison between Alabama and Texas. If you don't mind, I will hold your screed until I collect more from Texas, and weave your facts in for a general summary of what goes on there. I will send it to you ahead of time when, as, and if it is ready to print.

I was a pleasure to see you. I do hope you make the grade. If you do, I will come and lobby in your office for our folks.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Alabama sent about 3600,000 men to the armed forces, and about one out of every three men sent or volunteered was a Negro. Today over 200,00 of these men who sppnt from three to five years of their life defeating the enemy have been returned. These men have many needs. I happen to be an Alabama veteran myself. I was interested to learn if this thing called the GI Bill, which provided me and other veterans with certain opportunities for the time we spent in service, were really so, or if it were just political talk and agency answere-agency answer that's always "No", or "Sorry, Mack, you're just a little late."

I drove 12,000 miles over the State of Alabama, and I talked with veterans from all parts of the State. I also talked to State and Government workers who were hired to help veterans, and I talked to busness men, labor, religious, political, and community leaders.

I tried to find out from officials what was being done for veterans all over the state. But I found no one in the state who really knew what was being done from Allsboro to Mobile. I live in Allsboro and knew what was going on there, but I had to go to Mobile to find out what was happening there.

Opportunities

Veterans in Alabama have by law, certain opportunities and benefits. The New South ,fhr the February issue, grouped these benefits as follows:

1. Information: If an Alabama veteran is interested in a job, unemployment compensation, or apprenticeship training, he should go to the U. S. Employment Office. If a veteran wants to know about education, or job-training, or file a claim, he should go to the County Service Commissioner. The Service Commissioner is employed by the state to assist veterans, and there is one in every Alabama County. If the veteran wants his old job back he sees his draft

board. For general information and exact details regarding training, claims, or other problems, he may see a Veterans Administration representative.

2. Jobs: Officials who talk to veterans daily say the men are interested primarily in two things: One, to train for a better job than they had before the war, and if they had no job, to train for a job offering good pay. Two, to go into business. They are not too particular about what kind of business, and are often interested in going into a business in which they have had no experience or training. Yet, many veterans with families or folks depending on them find it urgent to start work at the earliest possible date. These men register with the U. S. Employment Office, and if they are not placed, are eligible for $20.00 per week until they find a job, or for fifty-two weeks. During the month of December the U. S. Employment Office, throughout Alabama, interviewed 81,329 veterans; placed 2,381, and had 26,993 in their active files waiting for jobs or training. You cannot tell how many Negro veterans were in this group, because the USES, like all State and Federal Agencies, fails to make a race breakdown. Officials say a vet is a vet and color makes no difference. But ordinary folks in Alabama know that just because they say a veteran is a vetran and color makes no difference, that doesn't make it so. We know that a white veteran is placed on a job by one set of rules and a Negro is placed by another set, just like we have one rule for registering white veterans as citizens and another to prevent Negro veterans from registering as citizens. And just because a Negro boy served his country and fought and died or drove trucks or cooked or anything the Army told him to do is no sign he is just another veteran. He is a Negro veteran. In Alabama that means he is first a Negro and secondly a veteran. I went into thirty-seven counties where most of the Negro veterans are located and I found only a few drawing unemployment compensation, except in the large cities. A few were drawing a hundred dollars a month, as self-employed farmers or to farm for some white man, but the great number were being, as a US Employment director put it, "pressured into accepting

jobs in the pulp and lumber business." The same man said, "You know you can do that sort of thing to a colored boy, but you can't do it to a white." This same man's superiors told me that color made no difference, just like the army told these boy when they were discharged, but I know better and you know better. This same office and department is alloted personnel and government money to interview and place job-hunters, and a third or more of the men they talk to are Negroes, and they often have separate offices, but they don't have a single Negro to interview these Negroes. And if a veteran has been pumped full of a lot of idealism and democracy during the war years and comes back to discuss his plans and dreams of jobs and training, whom does he see, a white man.

Well trained and qualified Negro interviewers could greatly assist these Negro veterans by talking to them about the situation, so they might make the most of opportunities available. They might assist them in getting training to better their status. To be frank about the situation, few businesses will employ a Negro veteran when they can hire a white veteran. The job opportunities for Negroes, regardless of education, are "Negro jobs". These are jobs for janitors, mill hands, common labor, and are usually jobs just a bit hotter or dirtier than I or other white men wish to do. Clean and high paying jobs we try to reserve for ourselves. To me, a native of Alabama, that's only natural, but I don't see any point of lying about it, and pretending that color makes modifference, just for the record's sake.

Where we have two sets of rules for employing veterans, educating them, and permitting them to become citizens, it is good business to know how many by each set of rules are placed and what kind of work they're place in. State and federal workers are employed and agencies are set up to help us. One way of helping would be to make available a racial breakdown in employment figures and employment opportunities, as well as the number drawing unemployment compensation.

There are few opportunities that offer advancement in the State of Alabama for veterans who were just laborers before the war and were not trained during the war. These men make up a large portion of the 200,000 veterans who have been returned to Alabama, and most of them came from the farms and rural areas. Right now cotton is a good price and forest products are at an all-time high, both in demand and price, and this pressure is not felt. But what is going to happen to these men when cotton goes down, or the culture is mechanized, and forest products are decreased in price and demand? That brings us to phase two, which is training and education for veterans in Alabama.

5. Education and Training: Did you know that if all of Alabama's veterans were married and made full use of training opportunities offered, they would draw more than one billion, two hundred thousand dollars for subsistence during training? This does not include the twenty dollars per month paid the State Department of Education for fraining farm veterans or the tuitions and fees paid private and public schools and colleges for training.

Disabled veterans are trained and rehabilitated by the Veterans Administration. Practically all veterans are entitled to training either from public or private schools, or to apprenticeship or job training through the State Department of Education. This training is available to both city and country vets.

If a country boy wants to train to become a better farmer, he should see his nearest vocational agricultural teacher. If he is a Negro veteran, he should see the Negro vocational teachers. There are forty-one Negro vocational teachers in the state. All veterans desiring any kind of training must fill our Form 1950, which must be mailed with a copy of their discharge to the Veterans Administration in Montgomery. The County Service Commissioner will assist veterans in filling out these forms, and if he can't supply a blank form, veterans should write to the Veterans Administration in Montgomery. This is a simple blank which records service, education, and dependents.

Businesses, industries, and trade schools are approved as training stations for veterans job-training. This approval is in the hands of officials called coordinators who are employed by the County and City Boards of Education.

The State Department of Education contracts with County and City Superintendent to employ personnel to handle job training. These men are responsible for enrolling veterans, approving training stations, and supervising the men to see that they are getting training and not just subsidized employment at government expense. These coordinators are supposed to supervise only twenty-two men, and when their load reaches more than twenty-two, another coordinator is to be employed. Vocational Agricultural Teachers, who act as agricultural coordinators for farm trainees, are supposed to receive assistance when they enroll more than eight men.

When veterans are placed as trainees, they must draw 35 per cent of a journeyman's wage while training. Under the regulations the veteran's wage should be increased as he progresses until he gets a full journeyman's wage. His total wage, including what the government pays for subsistence plus what his employer pays cannot be more than a full journeyman's wage.

On January 31st the Veterans Administration was paying subsistence for 3,611 veterans in schools and colleges, and for 1,123 on-the-job trainees; they also had 706 disabled veterans in training, making a total of 5449 drawing subsistence pay for training or education.

In Birmingham alone there were over four thousand veterans who had made application for training but who were not placed. All over the state training stations are filled but only a little more than two thousand have been placed on job-training. There is no rece-breakdown of veterans receiving

training, but I found only ten in training out of two hundred and thirty-seven in Mobile, only one out of thirty-three in Conecuh County, and only three out of ninety in the City of Tuscaloosa, and none in my home county. Yet, again, they tell me that color makes no difference. I doubt seriously if more than one out of ten veterans in training are Negroes. And according to the Veterans Administration and the U. S. Employment interviewers, from forty to fifty per cent of the requests for job training are made by Negroes.

The Veterans Administration which deals with veterans alone and is a government agency, employs no Negro counselors, interviewers, or training officers. They have five Negroes employed at a Guidance Center at Tuskegee. They maintain that one of their chief handicaps has been trained personnel. Adequately trained Negroes are available, but they are not used. The use of trained Negroes should help relieve the personnel shortage and also help the Negro veterans.

The State Department of Education has employed several Negroes as coordinators of Negro job-training all over the state, and they have forty-one Negro Vocational Agricultural Teachers to serve Negro farm boys, and expect to put on several more.

The only hitch in all of the training programs is that if all industries and businesses cooperated with the training program by making every opportunity available to train veterans, there still would not be nearly enough to go around or even partially fill the demand. What is going to be necessary if the program is to succeed is the setting up of special schools which will offer veterans training in courses they desire. At present, schools have been set up in Birmingham, Fairfield, Montgomery, and Mobile.

Courses offered at the Fairfield School are typical of courses and types of training offered. They offer, for whites: Tool and die making, radio and servicing, electricity and electrical appliance repair. For Negroes: Shoe repair, upholstery, dry cleaning and pressing, tailoring, and auto mechanics.

Leaders all over the state, both white and colored, admit that Negro veterans are more interested in the type of courses offered white veterans, but they are unavailable for Negroes and no effort is being made to make them available. The official excuse for not offering a veteran the kind of training he wants, is that they cannot train a man unless he can get a job after he is trained.

A lot of white and Negro veterans would like to get training in electricity, appliance repair, mechanical shop, plumbing, radio repair and servicing, air conditioning and refrigeration, and diesel engine mechanics, but opportunities in these fields are very limited for whites and are not available at all for Negroes. There will be increasing need for such trained men if the South and Alabama attempt to balance farming with industry. And with rural electrification moving forward in the postwar world unlimited fields should open in electrical appliance installation and repair, radio repair, refrigeration and air conditioning. There will be an opportunity for many small shops and businesses to open. But these small shops and businesses cannot open until the men are trained. The men cannot be trained under present practice until they get a job or open a shop. In the Birmingham area alone there are over two hundred thousand Negroes and most of them use electricity and appliances, but they have only one licensed electrician for the whole territory. That is one more than most Alabama cities and towns have, but because the Negroes have been barred from bedoming licensed and because no previous training opportunities have been available, is no reason for saying opportunities do not exist and

and will not open for Negro enterprises to serve their own people.

One bottleneck for job training for both races is that the veteran has to seek and find his own training station, get himself hired, then have a coordinator to approve the station.

White veterans from small towns and rural areas who wish specialized training find all schools filled to capacity and no local training opportunities available. Veterans know training opportunities exist on paper, but have difficulty finding openings. Not more than one out of fifty veterans in the state are now being trained.

Solution

If a man drives his automobile to the bank of a river he must cross and discovers no bridge or available means of crossing the stream, to tell him that he can or cannot get across is of no help. What he needs to know is how he's going to get across, and who is going to help him.

The figures and criticisms I have made are necessary only when feasible constructive answers can be offered. I am of the opinion that the Veterans Administration and State Department of Education officials are ready, willing, and able to get across this particular stream. They know they need a bridge; they also know that they do not have time to construct a bridge, so their answer is a ferry. Now, what they need is the wholehearted cooperation of every industry, business man, labor leader, and community leaders of all colors to assist in planning for the veteran. They need more than that. They need personnel and the administrative set up to give these men training just as the armed forces had the personnel and the administrative force to win the war. The armed forces did not have the machinery to train millions of men, but they had the foundation. It was a war winning foundation. The veterans Administration and the State Department of Education do not at present

have the administrative set up or the personnel, but they do have the foundation for a great peace winning force.

I believe that once the people of Alabama know what needs to be done and what they can do they will cooperate with their veterans in peace as they did in war.

This can be done by cooperating with the County Service Commissioners the U. S. Employment Offices, the Draft Boards, the County and City Superintendents of education and their Industrial and Agricultural Coordinators, and the Veterans Administration. They can form committees to assist in rehabilitating veterans. These committees should be formed by both the whites and the Negroes. Some of this has already been done in Birmingham and Tuscaloosa and Huntsville and other places but it is not wide enough spread to be felt. These committees can encourage all businesses and industry to make available every possible training opportunity for veterans. They can cooperate in county and district wide endeavor to get adequately equipped trade schools going for their veterans.

The number of veterans desiring training and the type of training desired could be registered and this information passed on to proper authorities.

The State Department of Education and the Veterans Administration need to know that the people of Alabama appreciate their tremendous accomplishment with such a small force and assist them in securing additional help to put this training program. They need to know how the State of Alabama stands, on training Negroes. They have nothing to hide and the people have nothing to hide but our faces, if we let this training opportunity slide by.

The task of training veterans in the state, when the money has already been appropriated and the foundation laid, is no task at all compared to defeating the enemy. We didn't question if it could be done--we had to do it. Then we responded to the pressure of self preservation. Today it is a moral and spiritual obligation that we may or may not fulfill at our own discretion.

For the sake of honesty we should say once and for all whether or not we wish to train men in the fields they wish training. We should say as a people of our state whether or not we wish Negroes to be trained and employed in jobs they wish and have earned the right to.

Never before in the history of our state have we had the opportunity to train men as skilled workers, craftsmen, laborers, mechanics, business and professional men, and diversified and specialized farmers. That is one reason we ship raw materials out of our state to be returned as shirts, automobiles, and farm machinery. That is one reason we import potatoes from Main and milk from Wisconsin and beef from Kansas City.

Conclusion

In conclusion I believe a prerequisite to planning a state program for veterans training and education will be an accurate survey to determine the number of veterans desiring training; type of training desired, and the time they would be willing to commence training, giving alternate dates they would be willing to start. Also, a survey to determine the number of businesses that will train veterans and the number that will train Negro veterans, should prove invaluable in determining the number and kind of special training centers needed in the state.

Also, the use of trained Negroes as interviewers and counselors, and training officers by state and federal agencies where these are not used should assist the head officials in determining more accurately the status of Negro veterans.

The advantages of veterans training are many. First, it is designed to compensate men for time and years lost to win a war. Second, it permits the gradual filtering of surplus labor on the already crowded market. Third, it

is a source for trained personnel requisite to new and increasing industry and business in Alabama. Fourth, everytime a poor white or Negro becomes a skilled farmer or worker earning sufficient income to improve his living standards, the state is advanced just wice as much; for where we had a liability we would have an asset to assist the already large number who become liabilities in time of depression. Fifth, it is a chance for Alabama to do something genuine without waiting for outside pressure regarding poor whites and Negroes.

Allsboro, Ala.

Dr. Mitchell:

I need some expense account blanks.

Twitty

Sent

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

The employment of Thomas should be baised upon whether or not we wish to do more than stir up brended interest an enthusiasm in job training. I think it would be purely experimental, and is filled with potential worth. Just how much good Mr. Thomas will do is problematical. I feel he is one of the best qualified individuals in ~~t~~ the state, in that he is more closely associated with me and my procedure. As you know I have taken every opportunity to push him because of his strategic location. He is respected by both white and colored, by both radical and reactionary. He was willing to do the job for expense. I believe this willingness sincere. If you want to we can try him for a month. During that time he should be able to get going at least ten or more committees in addition to the ones we have organized. My object is to get enough committees functioning to collect factual data on training and need to present to State Officials. This Will yeild results, yet it will naturally take time and expense to get it going. We had hoped to get it started and let it be self financing through accessing local committees so much. If realized these committees could yeild results not only for veterans but for the entire problem. I know it is in my reach to do what I propose, but I don't think it's a thing that can be done over-night. The thing that will slow the program is that we will have to discover and cultivate leadership in counties where they have so little.

~~Did you know that~~ Alabama sent about 300,000 men to the armed forces, and ~~that~~ about one out of every three men sent ~~wxxxx~~ ~~wxxx~~ or volunteered was a Negro. Today over 200,000 of these ~~m~~ men who spent from three to five years of their life defeating the enemy have been returned. These men have many needs. ~~Being an Alabama veteran and citizen I was interested in finding out just what is being done for these men who gave so much for their State and Country.~~ I ~~wanted to know~~ if this thing called the G. I. Bill, which provided me and other veterans with certain opportunities ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ for the time we spent in service, were really so, or if it were just political talk and agency answer--agency answer that's always "No", or "Sorry, Mack, you're just a little late."

I drove 12,000 miles over the State of Alabama and I talked with veterans from all parts of the State. I also talked to State and Government workers who were hired ~~just~~ to help veterans boys out of service, and I talked to business men, labor leaders and religious leaders, ~~men on the right side~~ and men on the other ~~left~~, and a few in between. I thought a few folks might like know just what is going on in Alabama. I don't know about other states ~~but I know about my~~ home state.

~~First~~ I tried to find out from officials what was being done for veterans ~~going on~~ all over the State ~~They either didn't know or wouldn't tell me.~~

But ~~And~~ if they did know anything ~~it was pertaining only to~~ their own office--no ~~body~~ one in the state who really knew what was being done from Allsboro to Mobile. I live in Allsboro and knew what was going on there, but I had to go to Mobile to find out what was happening there.

Opportunities

Veterans in Alabama have by law, certain opportunities and benefits. ~~Dr. George S. Mitchell, in his Article, A Chance for the Veteran and for the South,~~ grouped these benefits ~~as follows~~ His broad outline can be used in groping Alabama benefits. They are as follows:

1. Information: In Alabma veterans may go to the U.S E S or U.S Employment office, or to the County Service Commissioner. or to a Veterans Administration Office.

If an Alabma veteransis interested in a job, unemployment compensation, or apprenticeship training, he should go to the U. S. Employment Office. If a veteran wants to know about education, job-training, or file a claim, he should go to the County Service Commissioner. The Service commissioner is employed by the State to assist veterans, and there is one in every Alabma County. If the Veteran wants his old job back he sees his draft board. For general information and exact details regarding training, claims, or any problem he may see a Veterans Adm. Rep.

2. Jobs: Officials who talk to veterans daily say they men are interested primarily in two things: One, to train for a better job than they had before the war, and if they had no job, to train for a job offering good pay. Two, to go into business. They are not too particular about what kind of business, and are often interested in going into a business in which they have no experience or training. Yet, many veterans with families or folks depending on them find it urgent to start work at the earliest possible date. These men register with the U.S. Employment office, and if they are not placed are eligible for 20 per week until they find a job. for 52 weeks.

During the month of December the U. S. Employment Offices interviewed 81,329 veterans; placed 2,381, and had 26,993 in their active files waiting for jobs or training. You can't tell how many Negro Veterans were in this group because these like all State and Federal Agencies Officials say a vet is a vet and color makes no difference. But ordinary folks in Alabama know that just because they say a veteran is a veteran and color makes no difference, that doesn't make it so. We know that a white veteran is placed on a job by one set of rules and a Negro is placed by another set, just like we have one rule for registering white veterans as citizens and another to prevent Negro Veterans from registering as citizens.

And just because Negro boys served their country and fought and died or drove trucks or cooked or anything the Army told them to do is no sign he is Veteran. He is just another Negro Veteran. That means the second Negro and secondly a Vet. ~~and a veteran is a veteran regardless of color.~~ I went into thirty-seven counties where most of the Negro veterans are located and I found only a few drawing unemployment compensation, except in the large cities. Now a few were drawing a hundred dollars a month as self-employed farming or to farm for some white man, ~~or to farm for their self.~~ But the great number were being, as a US Employment director put it, "pressure into accepting jobs in the pulp and lumber business." The same man said, "you know you can do that sort of thing to a colored boy, but you can't do it to a white." This same man's superiors tell me that color makes no difference, just like the army told these boys when they were discharged, but I know better and you know better.

This same office and department is alloted personnel and ~~money~~ Govennment money to ~~employ~~ interview and place job-hunters, and a third or more of the men they talk to are Negroes, and they often have separate offices, but they don't have a single Negro to interview these Negroes. And if a veteran has been pumped full of a lot of idealism and democracy during the war years and comes back to discuss his plans and dreams of jobs and training, Who does he see, a white man. ~~And they try to tell me that a Negro from the black belt is going to discuss freely any problem, even a physical ailment with a white man.~~ No matter how sympathetic or important the interviewer may be — his success will be limited by a barrier beyond his control. Why, he knows, and I know that if he slips one time they'll take him across the county line. When he goes across the ~~xxx~~ county line, he don't come back and he don't go to Chicago. What happens to him is a secret-- the whites can't afford to tell, and the Negroes are afraid to.

Well trained and qualified Negro Interviewers could greatly assist these Negro veterans by ~~conversing~~ talking to them ~~and trying to get them to understand~~ about the situation, ~~what~~ ~~xxxxx and~~ So the might make the most of opportunities available, ~~unless and try to~~ They might assist them in getting ~~rather~~ training to better their status. ~~Now~~ ~~The result of this procedure is worthless time spent on the part of interviewer, and interest veteran. He can no say what he wants, and if he does it most often is not available.~~ Therefore we are expriencing a mass migration to the North. Our best ~~xxxxx~~ Negro young people are leaving, seeking an escape from reality, and we are contributing materially to this loss, not realizing that every man who labors and earns in Alabma spends and invests here.

To be frank about the situation, few businesses will employ a Negro veteran when they can hire a white veteran. The job opportunities for Negroes, regardless of education, are ~~we call in~~ Alabama "nigger jobs", these are jobs ~~like~~ for janitors, mill hands, ~~just~~ or common labor, and are usually just a bit hotter or dirtier than I or other white men wish to do. Clean and high paying jobs we try to reserve for ourselves. To me a native of Alabama that's only natural, but I don't see any point in ~~xxxx~~ lieing about it, and pretending that color makes no difference, just for the records sake. Another thing I found was that Negro leaders are not taking the interest in Negro veterans they ~~xxx~~ could and should, and if they don't take an interest in them I know that white folks in Alabama are not going to. We have too many white veterans to ~~x~~ help first.

Where we have two sets of rules for employing veterans, educating them, and permiting them to become citizens, it is ~~xxxx~~ good business to know ~~x~~ how many by each set of rules are placed and what kind of work ~~xxx~~ they're placed in. State and Federal workers are employed ~~xxxxxxxxxxx~~ and ~~x~~ agencies are set up to help us. But do you think that they are helping when they only present half ~~xxxx~~ true statements and keep inaccurate records, just to pretend that color makes no difference, when we already know that color does make a difference. What we need to know is how much difference it makes and is it profitable--if it is profitable who is it profitable to. ~~xx~~ The Lord said if you have a light don't hide it under a bushel. ~~It~~ I think this would apply to any agency in any state where you have a race problem and fail to make a race break-down. It's just not good business.

One way of helping would be to make available a racial breakdown in employment figures and employment opportunities as well as the number training etc.

There are few opportunities in the State of Alabama for veterans who were just laborers before the war and were not trained during the war. These men make up a large portion of the 200,000 veterans who have been returned to Alabama, and most of them came from the farms and rural areas. Right now cotton is a good price and forest products are at an all-time high, both in demand and price, and this pressure is not felt. But what is going to happen to these men when cotton goes down, or the culture is mechanized, and forest product are decrease in price and demand. That brings us to phase two, which is training and education for veterans in Alabama.

3. Education and Training: Did you know that if all of Alabama's veterans were married and made full use of training opportunities offered they would draw more than one billion two-hundred thousand dollars for subsistence during training. This does not include the twenty-dollars per month paid the state department of Education for training veterans or the tuitions and fees paid private and public schools and colleges for training. Disabled veterans are trained and rehabilitated by the Veterans Administration. All veterans are entitled to training either from public or private schools, or to apprenticeship or job-training through the state department of Education. This training is available to both city and country vets.

If a country boy wants to training to become a better farmer he should see his nearest vocational Agricultural teacher. If he is a Negro veteran he should see the Negro vocational teachers. There are forty-one Negro Vocational teachers in the State. All veterans desiring any kind of training must fill out form 1950 which must be maile with a copy of discharge to the Veterans Administration in Montgomry. The County Service Commissioner will assist veterans in filling out these forms, and if he can't supply a blank form write to the Veterans Administration in Montgomery. This is a simple blank which records service, education, and dependants.

15A
15B follows

Businesses, Industries, and trade schools are approved as training stations for veterans job -training. This approval is in the hands of coordinators who are employed by the County Board of Education. Then veterans are placed as trainees, and must dra 35 per cent of a journeymans wage while training. The veterans wage is suppos to be increased as he progresses until he gets a full journeymans wage. He can not at any active drew more than a journeyman draw His total wage, including what government pays plus what his employer pays can not be more than a full journeyman's wage.

On January 31st the Veterans Administration were paying subsistence for 3,611 veterans in schools and colleges, and for 1,123 on-the-job trainees, making a total of 4,743 for the State. They also had 706 disabled veterans in training,

Insert (15 B) Middle of 15 A

The State Department of Education contracts with County and City Supt. to employe personnel to ~~xxxxxxxxx~~ handle job training. These men are responsible for enrolling veterans, approving training stations, and supervising the men ~~enough~~ to see that they are getting training and not just subsidized employment at government expense. These coordinators are supposed to supervise only twenty-two men, and when their load reaches more than twenty-two ~~xxxxxxxxx~~ another coordinator is to be employed. Vocational Agricultural teachers, who act as agricultural coordinators for farm trainees, are supposed to receive assistance when ~~xxxxxx~~ they enroll more than eight men.

Education:

In Birmingham alone there were over four thousand veterans who had made ~~formal~~ application for training but who were no place. All over the state training stations are filled ~~xxxxxx~~ ~~xxxxx~~ but only little more than two thousand have been placed. There is no race-breakdown of veterans receiving training, but I found only ten in training out of two hundred and thirty-seven in Mobile, only one out of thirty-three in Conecuh County, and ony three out of ninty in the City of Tuscaloosa, and none in my home County. Yet, again, they tell ~~x~~ me that color makes no difference. I doubt seriously if more than one out of ten veterans in training are Negroes. And according to Veterans Administration and U. S. Employment Interviewers about fifty- percent of the requests for job training are ~~from~~ made by Negroes.

Education:

The Veterans Administration which deals with veterans alone and is a ~~fxxxxxl~~ Government agency, employe no Negro Counselors, Interviewers, or Training Officers. They had five Negroes employe at a guidance center at Tuskegee. ~~Yet,~~ They maintain that one of their cheif handicaps has been trained personnel. Adequately trained negroes are available, but they are not used. The use of ~~than~~ trained negroes should help client personnel change and also help the

~~This however, is not true of~~ The State Department of Education, ~~they~~ has employed several Negroes as Coordinators of Negro job-training all over the State, and they have forty-one Negro Vocational Teachers to serve Negro farm boys, and expect to put on several more.

Education

The only hitch in All of the training programs is that if you take all of the Industries and all of the ~~xxxxxxxxx~~ business

If all industries and businesses cooperate with the training program by making every opportunity available to train veterans, there still would not be nearly enough to go around for even partially fill the demand. What is going to be necessary if the program is to succeed is the setting up of special schools which will offer veterans training in courses they desire. At present schools have been set up in Birmingham, Fairfield, Montgomery, and Mobile.

Courses offered at the Fairfield School are typical of courses and types of training offered. They offer, /For whites: Tool and die making, radio and servicing, electricity and electrical appliance repair. For Negroes: shoe repair, upholstery, dry cleaning and pressing, tailoring, and auto mechanics.

Leaders all ofer the state, both white and colored, admit that Negro Veterans are more interested in the type of courses offered White veterans, but they are unavailable for Negroes, and no effort is being made to make them available. The excuse for not offering a veteran the kind of training he wants, is that they can not train a man unless he can get a job after he is trained.

Education

A lot of white and Negro veterans would like to get training in electricity, appliance repair, mechanical shop, plumbing, ~~brick laying~~, ~~carpentry~~, radio repair and servicing, air conditioning and refrigeration, and diesel engine mechanics, but opportunities in these fields are very limited for whites and are not available at all for Negroes. There will be increasing need for such trained men if the South and Alabama attempt to balance farming with industry. And with rural electrification moving forward in the postwar world unlimited fields should open in electrical appliance installation and repair, radio repair, refrigeration and air conditioning. There will be an opportunity for many small shops and businesses to open, But these small shops and businesses can not open until the men are trained. The men can not be trained under present practice

E ication

until they can get a job or open a shop. In the Birmingham area alone there are over two hundre thousand Negroes and most of them use electricity and appliances, but they have only one license electrician for the whole territory. That is one more than most Alabama cities and towns have, but because they have been barred from becoming licensed and because no previous training opportunities have been available , is no reason for saying op ortunities do not exist and will not open for negro enterprises to serve their own people.

Officials in both the State Department of E ucation and The Veterans Administration say they can not afford to train men for jobs, and after they ar traine they can find no jobs. To do so would only further frustrate the veteran,.

Education:

I agree, but none the less maintain, that training opportunities are being over-looked, and the establishment of Nickell Business Commission postponed.

One bottleneck for job training for both races is that the veteran has to seek and find his own training station, get himself hired, then have a Coordinator to approve the station.

White veterans from small towns and rural areas who wish specialized training find all schools filled to capacity and no local training opportunities available. ~~The thing which works to the disadvantage of the race, likewise Both races suffer from because they~~ Veterans know training opportunities exist on paper but, ~~are not actually available to more than one veteran~~ But have difficulty finding openings out of fifty. Veterans in the State are now being trained.

SOLUTION:

If a man ~~has~~ driven his automobile to the bank of a river he must cross ~~to~~ and discovers ~~there~~ no bridge or available means of cross the stream, ~~and~~ to tell him that he can ~~t get across or he~~ can not get across is of ~~little~~ No help. ~~The figures I have given in the beginning of this in~~ What ~~that man~~ needs to know is how ~~xxx~~ he's going to get across, and who is going to ~~assist~~ help him.

The figures and criticisms I have made are necessary only when feasible constructive answer can be offered. I am of the opinion that Veterans Administration and State Department of Education Officials are ready, willing, and able to get across this particular stream. ~~What~~ They know they ~~xxxxx~~ Need a bridge,

Solution

They also know that they do not have time to construct a bridge, so their answer is a ferry. Now, what they need is the whole hearted cooperation of every industry, business man, labor leader, and community leaders of all colors to assist in planning for the veteran. They need ~~in~~ more than that. They need personnel and the administrative set up to give these men training just as the armed forces had the personnel and the administrative force to win the war. The armed forces did not have the machinery to train millions of men, but they had the foundation. It was a war winning foundation. The Veterans Administration and the State Department of Education do not at present have the administrative set up or the personnel, but they do have the foundation for a great peace winning force.

Solution;

G. I. loans and housing are on the rocks. Veterans training is just on a sandbar xix it has power but needs the strength of the tide to push it out into the deep. The people of Alabama will xxxxxx be the tide that xxxxxx makes possible movement into the deep, or remaining on the sand. I firmly believe that once the people of Alabama know what nee s to be done and what they can do they will c operate with their veterans in peace as they did in war. In war they bught bonds, gave to the red cross, planted victory gardens, worke more acres, produced more goods and all with less force. In peace they can continue serving the men w o serve them.

Solution:

This can be done by cooperating with the County Service Commissioners, the U. S. Employment Offices, the Draft Boards, the County/City Superintendents of education and their Industrial and Agricultural Coordinators, and the Veterans Administration. They can form oxx committees to assist in re-habilitating veterans. These committees should be forme by both the whites and the Negros. Some of this has already been done in Birmingham and Tuscaloosa and Huntsville and other places but it is not wide enough spread to be felt. These committees can encourage all bussinesses and industry to make available every possible training opportunity for veterans. They can cooperate in county and district wide endeavor to get adequately equiped trade schools going for their veterans.

Solution:

The number of veterans desiring training and the type of training desired could be registered and this information passed on to proper authorities.

The State Department of Education and the Veterans Adminis ration need to know that the people of Alabama appreciate their tremendous accomplishment with such a small force and assist them in securing additional help to put this training program. They need to know how the State of Alabama stands, on training Negroes. They have nothing to hide and the people have nothing to hide but our faces if we let this training opportunity slide by ~~as we let peace slide by after the last war.~~

Solution:

The task of training veterans in the State when the money has already been appropriated and the ~~facilities~~ ~~xxx~~ foundation ~~machinery~~ ~~xxxxx~~ laid is no task at all compared to ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ ~~xx~~ defeating the enemy. We didn't question if it could be done--we had to do it. Then we responded to the pressure of self-preservation. Today it is a moral and spriitual obligation that we may or may not fullfill at our own discretion.

For the sake of ~~intellectual and spiritual~~ honesty we should say once and for all whether or not we wish to train men in the fields they wish training. We should say as a people of our state whether or not we wish Negroes to be trained and employed in jobs they wish and have earned the right to.

Solution:

It is not up toFederal and State agencies alone to make the kind of changes ~~xxx~~ necessary--the people of Alabama make the rules, either written or unwritten, ~~they merely carry them out~~. No one can expect State employees ~~of a state~~ to take steps that the people who make up that state can not sanction. But the portion of our population which ~~is poor white and colored~~ do not vote, do not own property, and it is their sons who need most, and its up to the people who do vote and the people of property and the institutions of truth and justice to assist this element ~~xxx~~ of our State which has held the entire state back.

Solution:

Never before in the history of our State have had the opportunity to train men as skilled workers, craftsmen, ~~xxxxxxx~~, laborers, mechanics, business and professional men, and diversified and specialized farmers. That is ~~xxy~~ one reason we ship raw materials out of our state to be returned as ~~finishe~~ shirts, automobiles, and farm machinery. That is one reason we import potatoes from Main and milk from ~~xxxx~~ Wisconsin, and beef from Kansas City.

~~Solution~~

CONCLUZION

In ~~a~~ conclusion I ~~xxxxxxxxxxx~~ believe a prerequisit to planning a State program ~~x~~ for veterans training and education will be an accurate survey to determine the number of veterans desiring training; type of training desired and the time they would be willing to commence training, giving alternate dates they would be willing to start. Also a survey to determine the number of businesses that will train veterans and the number that will train Negro veterans, should prove invaluable in determining the number and kind of special training centers needed in the State.

Conclusion:

Also, the use of trained Negroes as interviewers and counselors, and training officers by state and federal agencies where these are not used ~~xxxx~~ should assist in giving the Negro a clearer understanding of his problems, and should assist the ~~xx~~ head officials in determining more accurately the status of Negro veterans.

The advantages of veterans training are many. ~~61~~ First, it ~~xx~~ is designed to compensate men for time and years lost to win a war. Second, it permits the gradual filtering of surplus labor on the already crowded market. Third, it is a source for trained personnel requisite to new and increasing industry and business in Alabama.

Conclusions:

Fourth, everytime a poor white or Negro becomes a skilled farmer or worker earning sufficient income to improve his living standards, the State is advanced just twice as much ; for where we had a liability we would have an asset to assist the already large number who become liabilities in time of depression. Fifth, it is a chance for Alabama to do something genuine without waiting for outside pressure regarding poor whites and Negroes.

1244 Pittsburgh Street
Jackson, Miss.

3 August, 1944

Dear Dr. Mitchell,

This is a personal letter, hence - the paper.

I never mention any personal matters in my official reports to you. I have just arrived back in Mississippi from my trip to Oklahoma. My travels in Oklahoma were my most difficult trips for a number of reasons.

I am very depressed and tired and I feel that it will be to the best interest of myself and the work for me to take a few days rest. I am not certain whether we accumulate any vacation time or not on

this job — at any rate — I would like to take a week's leave from duty. I would like to leave Atlanta August 16th and return August 26th.

I plan to arrive in Atlanta on the afternoon of August 14th.

Your friend

Harry L. Wright

September 18, 1945

Capt. M. M. Ginter, C.A.C.
Post I&E Officer
Army Service Forces
Information and Education Office
Camp Rucker, Alabama

Dear Captain Ginter:

We take pleasure in sending you in response to your letter of September 14th one hundred copies of the pamphlet "Opportunities for the Negro Veteran in Atlanta, Georgia".

If you need additional copies, we could send you more.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Sent Sept 19, 1945

GUY B. JOHNSON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

IRA DEA. REID
ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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EMILY H. CLAY
SECRETARY-TREASURER

SOUTHERN REGIONAL COUNCIL, Inc.

ROOM 432, 63 AUBURN AVENUE, N. E.
ATLANTA 3, GEORGIA

GEORGE S. MITCHELL
DIRECTOR OF VETERANS SERVICES

RAY WARWICK
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

November 1, 1945

Technical Sergeant Harry L. Wright
U. S. Marine Corps Reserve
51st Defense Battalion, FMF
c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California

Dear Harry:

I am delighted that you have prospects of getting out soon. I have a job ready and waiting for you. We will have to talk about pay when you come, but I think we can strike a satisfactory bargain.

I need a white boy too, so keep you eyes open for one of your friends who is Southern bred and would be the right fellow.

The work keeps picking up, naturally, as more boys come home.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell
George S. Mitchell (W)

GSM:w

Hope High School
November 28, 1945

Dear_____

Your discharge shows that you had farmed previously to entering the service. Since it is likely you will continue to farm, I would like to acquaint you with the educational benefits you may receive while farming. If you will carry on a well organized farm program and attend an average of four hours a week instruction you can draw $75 a month if married or $50 if single.

This instruction will be shop work demonstrations, field trips, and some talks by successful farmers and men associated with farming as a business. These classes will meet during the slack farm season and you will not be kept out of your crops to hold classes. Your past education does not affect your eligibility. The money you recieve from your crops is all yours, no obligation to the Veterans Administration except mentioned above.

If you are interested in this program, or an Apprentice Trades Program, please contact me or Mr. Jones, Superintendent, at the Hope High School. We will be glad to fill out your application and help you in anyway. Please fill out the enclosed postcard so we may have record that you have been notified of this program.

If you know of any Veteran in your community that might be interested please pass this information on to him. We realize that some Veterans desire educational work, but dependants and other conditions make it impossible to attend agricultural colleges and trades school.

Yours very truly,

Russell Lewallen

Hope High School
December 3, 1945

Dear _____,

Would you like to learn a trade, futher your education, draw a salary, and recieve the educational subsistence allowance? The Veterans Adn., the Hope High School and the citizens of this community are ready to help you.

Hope High School expects to organize the following Training Programs:

1. Full time or part time classes for Veterans desiring a high school diploma.
2. Apprenticeship training or other Training-on-the-job with related instruction for those desiring to learn a trade.
3. Agricultural training for Veteran Farmers
4. Other programs if a need is shown

Examples of the trades and part of the related instruction is given below

Trade	Related Instructions 4 hours per week
Truck Drivers and Mechanics.	Engines, Generators, Batteries, Electrical Systems Lubrications and etc.
Plumbing	Soil Piping, House sewer, Fraps, Water supply, Tools, etc.
Printing	Press work, Proof reading, Binding, Composition, etc.
Sheet Metal	Riveting, soldering, shaping, pattern cutting, etc.
General Office Work	Typing, duplicating, Bookkeeping, etc.
Department Store	Typing, Business Arithmetics (Stock Room) Sales Advertising, etc.
Electrician	Houses Wiring, Electrical appliances, Motors, etc.
Radio Service	Microphone, Batteries, Condensors, Tubes, etc.
Farming	Shopwork, Diseases, Livestock, Feeds, etc.

The veteran will be required to attend 4 hours instruction per week which will likely be at night. You will be required to work at least 36 hours on the job per week.

Please fill out the enclosed post card so we may have a record that you have been notified of this program.

Please contact me at the Hope High School if you would like to fill out an application; also tell other Veterans of this Program.

Yours very truly,

Russell Lewallen

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION

A. N. WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT

1201

SYMBOLS

DL = Day Letter
NL = Night Letter
LC = Deferred Cable
NLT = Cable Night Letter
Ship Radiogram

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NSA 261 16

ATLANTA GA. DEC 11,1945 1112AM

HARRY L. WRIGHT

1244 PITTSBURG STREET

RECEIVED YOUR TEL 10 ANY DAY THIS WEEK EXPECT SATURDAY SOONER BETTER COME AHEAD REPLY COLLECT

GEORGE S. MITCHELL

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

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EMILY H. CLAY
SECRETARY-TREASURER

SOUTHERN REGIONAL COUNCIL, Inc.

Field Agent (Wright)

ROOM 432, 63 AUBURN AVENUE, N. E.
ATLANTA 3, GEORGIA

GEORGE S. MITCHELL
DIRECTOR OF VETERANS SERVICES

12 January, 1946.

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services
Room 424, 63 Auburn Ave. N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia.

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

I landed here in Jackson, Mississippi on Wednesday Afternoon. Had a pleasant trip over; my traveling companion was Congressman Dan Maghee of Mississippi; he was very cordial and as I was the only Negro aboard; I drew the attention of everyone. To my surprise there wasn't any hint of segregation. In Jackson neither the waiting room nor the toilets were segregated, and the most courteous treatment of the airline employees in Atlanta and Jackson was an encouraging thing.

Here's my first impression of the situation here in Mississippi. The Negro Veterans are hopefully waiting to see just what somebody will finally decide about them; the Negro Community is beginning to feel that this time is just like the last time when the fellows were given the old "run around"; the white State Officials are willing to see that the Negro Veterans better themselves but they have no program yet because they want to feel sure that whatever program they initiate will be acceptable to the white community as being "the right thing for our Colored Ex-soldiers", and in the mean time the Veterans Administration doles out just enough to the Negro Veterans to stay "within the Law".

Our job over here can be of real value if we can get a good look at the whole situation; get acquainted with the people who handle the Veterans Set-up, meet the Negro Community Leaders and liberal white people in the community and interest them in seeing that Negro Veterans share in all features of the veterans program. The outlook seems hopeful.

I plan to stay here in Jackson until Tuesday Morning - just meeting Negro Leaders and State Officials and getting an idea how they feel about veterans' problems in Mississippi.

A Council to attain, through research and action, the ideals and practices of equal opportunity for all peoples in the South.

GUY B. JOHNSON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

IRA DEA. REID
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ROOM 432, 63 AUBURN AVENUE, N. E.
ATLANTA 3, GEORGIA

GEORGE S. MITCHELL
DIRECTOR OF VETERANS SERVICES

I went by the office of the Negro Editor of the Local Weekly - Percy Greene. Mr. Greene is considered in these parts to be the best informed Negro on Veterans Affairs in the South. He is a veteran of World War 1, and since this time he has worked with veterans throughout the South. It's not an over-statement to say he knows most of the tricks of the game. He knows the heads of the VA, the F.F.W., the Red Cross, and he has case after case in his files that show race prejudice in the administrative policies of most of these organizations.

I saw again our friend President Reddix of Jackson College. I mentioned to you the need for a Veterans Information Center at Jackson similar to the one at Dilliard University, New Orleans; as far as I can see now, I heartily agree with Mr. Reddix that a Veterans Information Center, entirely staffed by Negroes, and located at Jackson College or in this vicinity, would be the most helpful thing for Negro Veterans in the Jackson Area. I need not mention the reason why. I wish you'd offer Mr. Reddix some assistance in looking into the possibility of getting such a center in this area.

I've seen the "Y" workers and when I come back to Jackson, their help in getting an idea around will be helpful.

Down at the State Department of Education, I met Mr. P. H. Easom, State Agent for Negro Education, one of our Directors, and a man sincerely interested in better race relations. Mr. Easom was friendly, sincere and well informed (he even knew of my appointment.) He gave me the names of some of his friends who live in Natchez and asked me to say that I was one of his friends whom he wanted them to meet.

He was pleased that I wanted to ask his opinion about the places in Mississippi in which I could do the most good. He promises to personally introduce me to all the officials in the State Department, who are concerned in any way with the Veterans Set-up. I have an appointment with him Monday.

Mr. Easom informed me that the project of using the munition plant at Flora, Mississippi as a training school for Negro Veterans was disapproved at a conference of State and Veterans Administration Officials because of the objections of some of the white people who lived near this plant.

I also made my way by the Veterans Administration - just to get acquainted. A Mr. W. S. Shipman is Director of this set-up.

A Council to attain, through research and action, the ideals and practices of equal opportunity for all peoples in the South.

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ATLANTA 3, GEORGIA

GEORGE S. MITCHELL
DIRECTOR OF VETERANS SERVICES

I plan to get another look and to have another talk with this man. I plan to get the names and location of VA contact officers in the places in which I plan to visit. I learned something by going by to see this man - that in some cases I would need credentials from my organization. I hope Mr. Shipman doesn't reflect the attitude of the Veterans Administration toward Negro Veterans. My impression was that he is rude, race prejudiced and too impressed with his own importance to give due consideration to the average Negro Veteran who would carry a real problem to him.

All of the Negro Leaders with whom I have talked are very pleased that our organization is taking this interest in Veterans and the community and every one of them have promised their cooperation. It's a nice thing for us to feel that we are being appreciated over here.

I feel that I have an idea of the job we are trying to do. There is a great deal to learn. Please let me have your comments. I plan to stick close to the advice of Mr. Reddix and Mr. Easom until I get your reflections.

Say thanks to Mrs. Warwick for the credentials. My best wishes for your personal health and the success of our work.

Your Friend
Harry L. Wright
HARRY

SOUTHERN REGIONAL COUNCIL, Inc.
63 AUBURN AVENUE, N. E.
ATLANTA 3, GEORGIA

9 February, 1945

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Ave. N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia.

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

I have your little note about the travel checks and the advance. That arrangement for clearing this matter off the books is alright.

I am traveling comfortably on my travel money. Ocassionally, I have to use personal funds until my checks come, without any hardships.

I'll "holler" when or if I need help one way or the other. I know you still have a personal interest in my success. This keeps my spirit up sometimes.

Your Friend
Henry

January 17, 1948

MEMORANDUM to: Field Employees
FROM: George S. Mitchell

I now have a home telephone. Please feel free to call me at any time about anything important.

The office phones are as follows:

Walnut 1821

Walnut 7965

My home phone is:

Dearborn 5061

In emergency I will, of course, accept collect calls at either place.

PAUL D. WILLIAMS, RICHMOND
PRESIDENT
P. B. YOUNG, NORFOLK
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT
FRANK W. SPENCER, SAVANNAH
SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT
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DIRECTOR OF VETERANS SERVICES
RAY WARWICK
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

Southern Regional Council, Inc.

ROOM 432, 63 AUBURN AVENUE, N. E. ATLANTA 3, GEORGIA

A Council to attain, through research and action, the ideals and practices of equal opportunity for all peoples in the South

January 18, 1946

Mr. Harry L. Wright
1244 Pittsburgh Street
Jackson, Mississippi

Dear Harry:

An acquaintance in Washington told me that a Miss Woodard in the State Department of Education in Mississippi could be helpful to you. I believe she is colored.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

George S. Mitchell

(w)

GSM:w

Field rep

January 18, 1946

Mr. Harry L. Wright
1244 Pittsburgh Street
Jackson, Mississippi

Dear Harry:

An acquaintance in Washington told me that a Miss Woodard in the State Department of Education in Mississippi could be helpful to you. I believe she is colored.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Office

January 19, 1946

Mr. Harry L. Wright
1244 Pittsburgh St.
Jackson, Mississippi

Dear Mr. Wright:

Sorry about your difficulties, but I think this note from Dr. Johnson with the Council seal will smooth your path.

It would help if you had your cards, but they told me it would be two weeks at least, which may mean three.

Call us again if you need to, and best of luck.

Sincerely,

Anna S. Warwick

January 10, 1946

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This will present Harry L Wright, who is employed by the Southern Regional Council as a field agent in connection with our program of veterans services.

Any assistance you can give him will be greatly appreciated.

Cordially yours,

GUY B. JOHNSON
Executive Director

GBJ:w

GUY B. JOHNSON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

IRA DEA. REID
ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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SECRETARY-TREASURER

SOUTHERN REGIONAL COUNCIL, Inc.

ROOM 432, 63 AUBURN AVENUE, N. E.
ATLANTA 3, GEORGIA

GEORGE S. MITCHELL
DIRECTOR OF VETERANS SERVICES

19 January, 1946

Field Agent

Mr. George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services
Room 424, 63 Auburn Ave. N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia.

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

I have just returned to Jackson from a visit to Natchez and Alcorn College.

I mentioned in my last letter to you that Mr. P. H. Easom, State Agent For Negro Education had given me an appointment in order that I could meet the other State Officials concerned with the problems of veterans. Mr. Easom introduced me to Mr. A. P. Fatherree, State Supervisor of Vocational Agriculture.

After I had explained my mission, Mr. Fatherree gave me a complete lay-out of the whole agricultural set-up in respect to veterans. I am sending you a copy of the "Mississippi Plan". Frankly, not one thing is actually being done now, but I have respect for their "sincere" feelings toward their plan for veterans in agriculture. Mr. A. D. Fobbs, Negro State Teacher Trainer will supervise the Negro Vocational Agriculture Teachers. I am making an effort to arrange a conference with him when he's in this area again. Mr. Fatherree and a few other of the lessor officials with whom I talked are concerned about Mississippi being so late in getting the contract for their plan approved. I think that I'll be able to slip in a suggestion here and there since the "ground floor" is just being layed.

After leaving the State Capitol, I went by to get acquainted with the American Legion and the VFW people. In the American Legion office, I met Mr. Robert D. Morrow, State Adjutant of the American Legion. Mr. Morrow is one of those sort of persons who earn your respect right away just by his bearing. I explained the interest of my organization in veterans and asked him what interest was his organization taking in Negro Veterans. He explained that the American Legion was working on plans to establish a department for Negroes in Mississippi, and that this plan had the support of most of the Legion Posts in Mississippi. He offerred to give me an introduction in any part of Mississippi in which I planned to travel.

A Council to attain, through research and action, the ideals and practices of equal opportunity for all peoples in the South.

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Mr. W. J. McCoy, State Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, was in charge of the Jackson Office. In introducing my self I said that my office was in Atlanta - he was born in Atlanta; knew about the SRC, so my program was sold to him right-off. He explained that the reason why Negroes weren't admitted to the VFW Posts or permitted to organize posts of their own was because the VFW feared criticism from the other veterans organizations. Plans are now under-way to organize Posts for Negroes. The VFW people are planning to write all the leading churchmen in Mississippi asking their opinion on the admission of Negroes, if their opinions are favorable then when or if criticism ever comes they can point to the advice received from these good citizens. Quite a clever idea. I have made some very good contact with other sections of the state through Mr. McCoy. He has asked me to go by to meet some of the VFW fellows where ever I travel in Mississippi. I am going to his office Monday to pick up some addresses of VFW members in North Mississippi.

Before leaving for Natchez on Tuesday, I visited the office of the Secretary of the Mississippi Colored Teachers Association , Professor W. W. Blackburn. Mr. Blackburn is one of the best informed Negroes on the problems of Education in Mississippi; he is employed by the State Department of Education as Mr. P. H. Easom's assistant. Mr. Blackburn was able to give me a lead on the situation of Negroes in Natchez as he has worked in all the communities of Mississippi for the past thirty-five years.

I arrived in Natchez, Tuesday afternoon. Through one of my old college room mates I arranged to stay at one of the very fine homes in the community. I made my approach in Natchez just as I had done in Jackson - that I was just getting around to get acquainted with the good citizens both white and colored, who could help the Colored Veterans get "out of the pool rooms", and off the (principal street for Negroes) and get settled down to becoming good citizens. I first met a few of the Negro Leaders whom Professor Blackburn had mentioned and asked who would be some of the other people that I should meet. I made my way down to the local office of the Veterans Administration and met the Veterans Contact Officer, Mr. Jimmy Clinton, a native of Natchez, cordial, easy going, friendly and a down-to-earth sort of fellow. We disscussed all the usual problems. He said that as of 31 December, 1945, 1291 men from the Natchez Area had been discharged from the service; 645 of these were Negroes. Natchez had twenty men on Job Training - five of these are Negroes. Mr. Clinton was interested in increasing the number of men on his Job Training Program, and as I was talking about "beating the bushes" for Job Training Veterans, I was one of his "fair haired" boys.

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He said that I had his whole hearted cooperation in this sort of program and he suggested that I get a group of the leading Colored Citizens to-gether before I left and that he would come around in the Colored Section and explain the opportunities for veterans, naturally I was very pleased with this idea of his. He asked me to go by to meet some of the White Citizens who were interested in the Negroes. I went by to meet Mr. Joseph Dixon, a staunch American Legion man. Owner of the Dixon Novelty Shop; Mr. Dixon stuck out his hand and gave me a hearty hand shake when I mentioned that I had met Mr. Robert Morrow, State Adjutant of the American Legion, Mississippi, he said "When you mention Bob Morrow"s name among American Legion men in the South, you talk about a real man". He told me the whole history of race relations in Natchez, and pledged his cooperation to any kind of project like ours.

Mr. Clinton also asked me to go by to meet Mr. Robert Walcott, Justice of the Peace; I wasn't able to find Mr. Walcott in his office - Justice of the Peace Walcott has the goodwill of most of the Negroes whom I met in the community.

I visited the local High School and was invited to speak at the assembly. A Miss Sadie V. Thompson is the principal of this school. Miss Thompson is an old woman who seems set in her old ideas and the school reflects her attitude. This is a handicap to the community of which the veterans are a definite part.

While in Natchez, Mr. Easom asked me to meet Mr. W. H. Braden, Superintendent of Natchez Public Schools. Professor Braden gave me a warm reception after I had explained my mission to Natchez. At the Negro High School, I had noticed a faily well equipped shop and some of the cabinet work of Professor Jennings, so I hit on the idea of interesting Mr. Braden in working out some kind of training program for veterans in this shop; he felt that this was a worthwhile idea and when I left Natchez I found that he had approached the Veterans Administration with such an idea. Professor Braden said that if I should ever come back to Natchez that he would arrange for me to meet with the Chamber of Commerce.

Thursday night, I had one of the leading Negro business men, Mr. Marchant Dumas, druggist, to invite a group of the representive Negroes in the Community to a meeting in his drug store to discuss opportunities for Negro Veterans; I invited Mr. Jimmy Clinton, the Veterans Officer, to come down to give them all of the information they desired. There were about ten leaders present. We scheduled the meeting for one hour; it lasted two and a half hours. Everyone fell into the spirit of getting the correct information to pass on to veterans. After the meeting was finished some few of the leaders were left talking to the Veterans Officer on the outside of the building.

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I made no effort to try to organize a permanent committee. I felt it would have been a mistake at that time. Mr. Dumas promised to keep me informed on matters, and I felt if the thing just grew because of the seed of interest I had planted, it would be a more successful project. I'll see. The situation at Natchez fitted into the general pattern of the Veterans' situation in Mississippi that I described to you last week.

I went next down to Alcorn College. I wish every Mississippian could visit Alcorn. The neglect of State Officials in not providing facilities for the education of Negroes at Alcorn College is a most serious mistake. I understand that the munition plant at Flora Mississippi, was to have been an extension of Alcorn College; everyone, including the Governor had approved of this excellent project, but a few words of objections from a few White People who lived in the community killed the whole works and as a result thousands of Colored Lads who braved the fury of the enemy all over the world are denied an opportunity to learn how to better earn a living. We have a long way to go yet.

Only thirty veterans are enrolled at Alcorn. Mr. William P. Robinson is chairman of the Veterans Committee at Alcorn College. Mr. Robinson is both able and willing to see that the veterans program at Alcorn is of real service to the fellows but the college is without both equipment and funds. President Pipes is most anxious for the fellows to get the most out of their program but feels that without equipment and funds, Alcorn is not doing a successful job with veterans. There is hope for some funds by July, 1946, but in the mean time, I wonder just what will happen. This munition plant deal is something that should have the attention of someone who could work out some solution; this deal is most unfortunate.

I have arrived back in Jackson for a conference with Mr. Easom, Mr. Reddix, and veterans organization commanders then I plan a two week trip through North Mississippi. I hope these reports are giving you the information you desire. Remember to let me know how I can improve my work over here. Please say hello to all of the SRC family for me.

Your friend

Harry L. Wright

- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - HARRY L. WRIGHT- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

A Council to attain, through research and action, the ideals and practices of equal opportunity for all peoples in the South.

COUPON NO. 1 .25 | COUPON NO. 2 .50 | COUPON NO. 3 .75 | COUPON NO. 4 1.00 | COUPON NO. 5 1.25 | COUPON NO. 7 1.50 | COUPON NO. 10 2.00

COUNTERSIGNED
HOUR 8 P M
DATE 1-23-46
RESIDENT AGENT

REGISTERED No. 43072
No. OF AGENCY 676

AGE LIMITS 18 TO 69 INCLUSIVE.

READ ALL PROVISIONS AND CONDITIONS.

THE TRAVELERS
Insurance Company
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

This Policy Provides Indemnity for Loss of Life, Limb or Time by Bodily Injuries to the Extent Herein Provided.

In consideration of the premium indicated on the coupon attached, **HEREBY INSURES** the person whose name is written upon the stub of this Ticket Policy in the possession of the Company bearing even number and date herewith against loss resulting from bodily injuries effected during the term of this insurance directly and independently of all other causes through external, violent and accidental means, as specified in Parts A and B, subject to the conditions and limitations herein contained.

Part A: **If such injuries are sustained while the Insured is riding as a passenger in or on a public conveyance provided by a common carrier for passenger service and propelled by mechanical power on land or water** and result independently of all other causes within 90 days from the date of the accident (a) in death, the Company will pay $5,000 in lieu of any other indemnity to the estate of the Insured; or (b) in the loss of both hands or both feet by complete severance through or above the wrist or ankle joints, the Company will pay the Insured $5,000 in lieu of any other indemnity; or (c) in the loss of one hand or one foot by complete severance through or above the wrist or ankle joints, the Company will pay the Insured $2,500 in lieu of any other indemnity; or (d) if such injuries so sustained do not result in a loss specified in Clause a, b, or c, for the period commencing with the date of accident not exceeding 52 consecutive weeks during which the Insured shall be continuously and wholly disabled by such injuries, independently of all other causes, from performing every duty pertaining to his business or occupation, the Company will pay $25.00 a week; or for the period not exceeding 26 consecutive weeks commencing with the date of accident or immediately following total loss of time, during which the Insured shall be continuously and wholly disabled by such injury from performing one or more important daily duties pertaining to his occupation, the Company will pay $15.00 a week. In no case shall the indemnity payable for both total and partial loss of time exceed fifty-two consecutive weeks.

Part B: **Three-fifths of the amounts above specified will be paid if the injury causing the loss is sustained elsewhere than as specified in Part A, subject otherwise to the conditions and limitations hereinbefore and hereinafter contained.**

STANDARD PROVISIONS: 1. This Policy includes the endorsements and attached papers, if any, and contains the entire contract of insurance. No reduction shall be made in any indemnity herein provided by reason of change in the occupation of the Insured or by reason of his doing any act or thing pertaining to any other occupation. 2. No statement made by the applicant for insurance not included herein shall avoid the Policy or be used in any legal proceeding hereunder. No agent shall have authority to change this Policy or to waive any of its provisions. No change in this Policy shall be valid unless approved by an executive officer of the Company and such approval be endorsed hereon. 4. Written notice of injury on which claim may be based must be given to the Company within twenty days after the date of the accident causing such injury. In event of accidental death immediate notice thereof must be given to the Company. 5. Such notice given by or in behalf of the Insured or beneficiary, as the case may be, to the Company at Hartford, Connecticut, or to any authorized agent of the Company, with particulars sufficient to identify the Insured, shall be deemed to be notice to the Company. Failure to give notice within the time provided in this Policy shall not invalidate any claim if it shall be shown not to have been reasonably possible to give such notice and that notice was given as soon as was reasonably possible. 6. The Company upon receipt of such notice, will furnish to the claimant such forms as are usually furnished by it for filing proofs of loss. If such forms are not so furnished within fifteen days after the receipt of such notice, the claimant shall be deemed to have complied with the requirements of this Policy as to proof of loss upon submitting within the time fixed in the Policy for filing proofs of loss, written proof covering the occurrence, character and extent of the loss for which claim is made. 7. Affirmative proof of loss must be furnished to the Company at its said office in case of claim for loss of time from disability within ninety days after the termination of the period for which the Company is liable, and in case of claim for any other loss, within ninety days after the date of such loss. 8. The Company shall have the right and opportunity to examine the person of the Insured when and as often as it may reasonably require during the pendency of claim hereunder, and the right and opportunity to make an autopsy in case of death where it is not forbidden by law.

THE TRAVELERS INSURANCE COMPANY HARTFORD CONNECTICUT IS A STOCK COMPANY CHARTERED IN 1863

Form A4 (T-56x) (Std. Prov.) Ed. Oct. 1940

9. All indemnities provided in this Policy for loss other than that of time on account of disability will be paid immediately after receipt of due proof. 10. Upon request of the Insured and subject to due proof of loss all accrued indemnity for loss of time on account of disability will be paid at the expiration of each four weeks during the continuance of the period for which the Company is liable, and any balance remaining unpaid at the termination of such period will be paid immediately upon receipt of due proof. 11. All the indemnities of this Policy are payable to the Insured. 14. No action at law or in equity shall be brought to recover on this Policy prior to the expiration of sixty days after proof of loss has been filed in accordance with the requirements of this Policy, nor shall such action be brought at all unless brought within two years from the expiration of the time within which proof of loss is required by the Policy. 15. If any time limitation of this Policy with respect to giving notice of claim or furnishing proof of loss is less than that permitted by the law of the state in which the Insured resides at the time this Policy is issued, such limitation is hereby extended to agree with the minimum period permitted by such law. 20. The insurance under this Policy shall not cover any person under the age of eighteen years nor over the age of sixty-nine years. Any premium paid to the Company for any period not covered by this Policy will be returned upon request.

ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS: A. The insurance under this Policy shall not cover loss resulting from bodily injuries sustained outside the continental limits of the United States in North America, or the Dominion of Canada, or the Republic of Mexico, or in any part of the North American Continent north of the sixtieth degree of north latitude. The insurance hereunder shall be void as to persons employed in mines, or in subaqueous work, or on iron or steel construction work, or on railroads, steamboats or other passenger or freight conveyances while on duty, or on vessels of any kind while on duty, and persons maimed, crippled or deformed, or bereft of reason, sight, or hearing, and the Company will return on demand to any such person, his or her executors, administrators or assigns, the premium paid therefor. B. This insurance shall not cover disappearance nor injuries of which there is no visible contusion or wound on the exterior of the body of the Insured, nor shall it cover accident, injury, disability, dismemberment or death caused directly or indirectly, wholly or partly, by any of the following, to wit: medical or surgical treatment, hernia, disease in any form, fits, vertigo or sleep-walking, gas or poison in any form or manner or contact with poisonous substances, sunstroke or freezing, firearms, fireworks, or explosives of any kind, horse, automobile or bicycle racing, lacrosse, football, skiing, hockey, polo, dueling, fighting, riot, war or any act of war or suffered by the Insured while in military or naval service of any country at war, nor shall this insurance cover suicide, sane or insane, or injuries, fatal or non-fatal, inflicted intentionally by the Insured, or by any other person, sane or insane, or sustained by the Insured while insane, or while resisting arrest or fleeing from justice, or while getting on or off any moving conveyance or trying so to do, or happening while in or on any part thereof not provided for the use of passengers, or while in or on any vehicle or mechanical device for aerial navigation, or in falling therefrom or therewith, or while operating or handling any such vehicle or device. C. Insurance effective at any one time on any person under Ticket Policies in this Company is limited to one such policy and the Company will return to the Insured or to his or her estate, all premiums paid for Ticket Policies in excess thereof. D. No provision of the charter, constitution, or by-laws of the Company shall avoid the insurance hereunder or be used in evidence or defense of any claim arising under this Policy. E. The insurance hereunder shall be in force from the date and hour stamped or written hereon for the highest number of days fixed by any coupon remaining attached hereto, ending, Standard Time of the place where ticket is issued, at twelve o'clock noon, if issued at any time up to and including noon, or twelve o'clock midnight, if issued at any time after noon.

Secretary, Accident Department

President

Form A4 (T-56x) (Std. Prov.) Ed. Oct. 1940

This Policy Provides Indemnity for Loss of Life, Limb or Time by Bodily Injuries to the extent Herein Provided.

Makes Ticket good for One Day from date.		
Makes Ticket good for Two Days from date.	Valueless if detached.	2
Makes Ticket good for Three Days from date.	Valueless if detached.	3
Makes Ticket good for Four Days from date.	Valueless if detached.	4
Makes Ticket good for Five Days from date.	Valueless if detached.	5
Makes Ticket good for Seven Days from date.	Valueless if detached.	7
Makes Ticket good for Ten Days from date.	Valueless if detached.	10

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DIRECTOR OF VETERANS SERVICES
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DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

Southern Regional Council, Inc.

ROOM 432, 63 AUBURN AVENUE, N. E. ATLANTA 3, GEORGIA

A Council to attain, through research and action, the ideals and practices of equal opportunity for all peoples in the South

January 23, 1946

Mr. Harry L. Wright
1244 Pittsburgh Street
Jackson, Mississippi

Dear Harry:

Thanks for your letter of January 12th. I am sure you are doing things right.

The technical name for what Mr. Reddix probably wishes is not Veterance Information Center but Guidance Center. This would be one or two persons paid by the Veterans Administration and stationed at Jackson College. Their job would be mainly to advise veterans applying under Public Law 16 for rehabilitation involving education or training. Such a center is ordinarily equipped to do occupational testing. It will have available the catalogues of most colleges and information about technical and vocational training opportunities open all over the country. Its representatives would counsel at length with boys needing rehabilitation, and on the basis of advice from such a center, the Veterans Administration would make agreements with Public Law 16 rehabilitaion veterans about the course each veteran would follow. Such centers ordinarily give advice also to persons wishing to claim the educational benefit of Public Law 346.

The first Negro one in the country, I believe, was and is at Louisiana Southern University, Scottlandville (Baton Rouge). There is another at Dillard in New Orleans.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

George S. Mitchell

(W)

GSM:w

Field Agent

January 23, 1946

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Jackson, Mississippi

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ATLANTA 3, GEORGIA

GEORGE S. MITCHELL
DIRECTOR OF VETERANS SERVICES

26 January, 1946.

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services
Room 424
63 Auburn Ave. N. E.
Atlanta, Georgia.

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

I am in the "Cotton Country, the gateway to the great "Black Belt".

With the advice of Mr. Easom and Mr. Reddix, I am making a two week tour of the Delta Area. We have tried to plan this trip to include the areas where the greatest number of Negroes live or where the "Powers that be" hold sway.

I have spent the first part of the week in conferences with State Officials, Veterans Organization Officials, the Negro Representive in the Department of Education, Mr. Reddix and others whom I knew could help me in getting to meet the people and to visit the places where I could get the best picture of the situation.

Clarksdale, Mississippi is the first place in the Delta visited. Through my contacts in Jackson I arranged to live with one of the leading families in the Negro Community, Mr. W. W. Nelson.

As usual I visited the local high school, the Veterans Office, the church, talked with community leaders. Saturday morning, I was invited to attend a meeting of community leaders from all the Delta Counties. Mr. L. W. Easterling, Negro Agricultural Agent introduced me to the Group and I was able to explain our interest in veterans. This is a very fine group of community leaders and they could do a real job if they were permitted to do more of their own planning.

Here is the set-up here: more than 50% of the population of this area are Negroes, a few professional Negroes,

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GEORGE S. MITCHELL
DIRECTOR OF VETERANS SERVICES

a few farm owners, a fair number of property owners in or near Clarksdale and a large number of plain farm laborers. The large White Planters hold all the strings, and they resent anybody or anything that may even seem to change their set-up.

There is not a high school for Negroes (the Negro school population) is the largest) not even is there a bed in the White Hospital for Negroes.

I have talked with the leading Negroes in the Community and they feel there is every little hope for Negro Veterans returning to a community such as this unless some cooperative plan of improvement is worked out by the Negro and White Leaders. Peculiar to this is the definite paternal attitude the White Leaders, assume toward all Negroes, whether he's a farm labor or Principal of the local schools.

The VFW people in Jackson had recommended Mr. Frank E. Nelson, 323 Miss. Street, Clarksdale to me as aliberal, but Negro Leaders in this area couldn't point out one White Leader who had their repect outright.

The Veterans Contact Officer wasn't available for any official account of the veterans program. None of the community leaders with whom I talked knew anything at all about Job Training and Farm Training. Here is a real need and a real job to be done. I haven't decided which is the best approach yet. I have so far just got acquainted and got a chance to see what seemed to be the background.

Frankly, I think if ever there is any racial conflict in Mississippi, this area will be concerned. The following is a list of the leading "Solid Citizens" of this area.

Mrs. Lillian Rodger Johnson (C)
404 Yazoo Ave. Phone No. 1755
Clarksdale, Miss.

Dr. P.W. Hill (C)
P.O. Box 547 Phone No. 1430
Clarksdale, Miss.

Mr. Wallace A. Higgins (C)
719 Lincoln St. Phone No. 1398
Clarksdale, Miss.

Mr. Charles Stringer (C)
526 Ashton Ave. Phone No. 445
Clarksdale, Miss.

Mr. P. F. Williams (W)
620 Oakshurst Ave. Phone No. 1095
Clarksdale, Miss.

Mr. Frank E. Nelson (W)
323 Miss. Street Phone No.
Clarksdale, Miss. 848

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ROOM 432, 63 AUBURN AVENUE, N. E.
ATLANTA 3, GEORGIA

I plan to arrive in Jackson by February 8, 1946. Thanks for any advice you may offer me.

Your Friend

Harry L. Wright

HARRY L. WRIGHT

- -

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Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 AUBURN AVENUE, N. E. ATLANTA 3, GEORGIA

January 31, 1946

Dear Harry:

Many thanks for your report of January 26. I can see you are finding it a bit slower in the Delta than elsewhere. That's natural.

Of course, the main thing there is on-the-farm training. The Negro vocational agriculture teachers will be the ones to carry that for you.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

George S. Mitchell

Dr
Alex

Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 AUBURN AVENUE, N. E. ATLANTA 3, GEORGIA

January 31, 1946

Mr. Harry L. Wright
1244 Pittsburgh Street
Jackson, Mississippi

Dear Mr. Wright:

Enclosed herewith are two checks covering your salary for the last half of January and the expense account in the amount of $55.53.

Dr. Mitchell has asked that the travel advance of $50.00 be cleared and has suggested that we deduct $25.00 from each of the next two expense statements. Mrs. Warwick may already have written you about this, but she is out of the office this week - a victim of influenza - and I cannot ask her. I wanted you to be sure to have advance notice, though.

I had the pleasure of reading the excellent report which you sent Dr. Mitchell last week. That's the sort of thing that gives a lift to the folks who stay in the office all the time. I hope that you will continue to have such a warm reception wherever you go.

Cordially yours,

Emily H. Clay

Emily H. Clay

Fdl'd again

January 31, 1946

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Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 AUBURN AVENUE, N. E. ATLANTA 3, GEORGIA

February 1, 1946

Mr. Harry L. Wright
1244 Pittsburgh Street
Jackson, Mississippi

Dear Harry:

I have a hankering for tidiness about money matters. In order to get the travel advances off the books at a reasonably early date, I propose to ask Miss Clay to hold back from each of the next two forth-coming travel checks one-half of any presently outstanding travel ~~expense~~ advance.

That's not necessarily an absolute rule, and if it would pinch you, say so.

Of course, you may have additional advances for long trips or if you get in some sort of hole.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services

GSM:jm

Field agent

February 1, 1946

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1244 Pittsburgh Street
Jackson, Mississippi

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Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services

GSM:jm

PAUL D. WILLIAMS, RICHMOND
PRESIDENT
P. B. YOUNG, NORFOLK
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT
FRANK W. SPENCER, SAVANNAH
SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT
CARTER WESLEY, HOUSTON
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HAROLD L. TRIGG
ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
EMILY H. CLAY
SECRETARY-TREASURER
GEORGE S. MITCHELL
DIRECTOR OF VETERANS SERVICES
RAY WARWICK
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

Southern Regional Council, Inc.

ROOM 432, 63 AUBURN AVENUE, N. E. ATLANTA 3, GEORGIA

A Council to attain, through research and action, the ideals and practices of equal opportunity for all peoples in the South.

February 8, 1946

Mr. Harry L. Wright
1244 Pittsburgh Street
Jackson, Mississippi

Dear Harry:

Many thanks for your report of February 2nd and for the material you sent over. Be on your guard of course with the Delta Council people. You understand that they hate Farm Security implacably and line up with the worst Farm Bureau position.

I was greatly interested in the article in the Delta Council News of January about the farm training at Leland for plantation managers.

I hope you can write me later on as to whom we should see to get farm training really underway for people who don't aspire to be plantation managers - i.e. for croppers and hired hands and tenants, colored and white.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

I picked up news in Washington that somewhere in the Delta good, full-day vocational education courses are being given to colored in tractor repair. That would be of interest if you can pick it up.

Return to CC

Field agent

February 8, 1946

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1244 Pittsburgh Street
Jackson, Mississippi

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George S. Mitchell

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GUY B. JOHNSON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

IRA DEA. REID
ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

special list

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SOUTHERN REGIONAL COUNCIL, Inc.

ROOM 432, 63 AUBURN AVENUE, N. E.
ATLANTA 3, GEORGIA

GEORGE S. MITCHELL
DIRECTOR OF VETERANS SERVICES

2 February, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Ave. N.E.

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

I have passed down into the center of the Mississippi Delta. From Clarksdale, I came down to Mount Bayou, Miss. (The all Negro Town).

Mount Bayou is an unusual town – it's unusual in the attitude and the thinking of its people. I have never been in a town where the attitude of its people so completely reflected their feelings of freedom – even I felt different. Like most other negroes where ever I have lived (either North or South) I have felt that I was being tolerated, just for the sakes of peace. In Mount Bayou I felt "right at home" – yet I am opposed to segregation.

There are approximately two hundred veterans living in the town limits of Mount Bayou. The local postmaster, Mr. Norman, has been acting as adviser to veterans in an unofficial manner. He has been working very close to the Veterans Service Office in the County seat. Officially nothing yet is being done for veterans' training in this area. Job Training and Farm Training weren't understood here.

I arranged conferences with the Mayor, Judge B.A. Green, a well educated sober sort of fellow who has won the respect and cooperation of the white people in the neighboring towns; Mr. Norman, postmaster, a relatively young man who is an effective community leader; and a Rev. M.F. Harding, principal of the school, a man whose education makes him a misfit for the kind of community and the kind of people he has to work with in doing something worthwhile. These are the men who hold the strings. I think that I was successful in selling them the Job and Farm Training idea as being "good business for their community.

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ATLANTA 3, GEORGIA

GEORGE S. MITCHELL
DIRECTOR OF VETERANS SERVICES

Located in Mount Bayou is a fraternal hospital, well equipped with more than one hundred beds and two very fine doctors on the staff. The officials of the town are bidding for a Veterans Hospital for Negroes to be erected there. The local white citizens of the nearby towns are opposed to this project.

One of the leading citizen of Mount Bayou, Dr. Howard has built a large amusement park for Negroes in this area - there is a swimming pool, a tennis court, a dance hall, a few cages of monkeys, a large gold fish pool, and a Cafe; all of these developments are as modern and well-kept as you'd find in any small city. You can easily understand how Mount Bayou has a great deal of influence in the lives of Negro Veterans who live in all the surrounding communities.

Granville, Leland and Stoneville form the center of the Mississippi Delta. This is the country of the big planters and big corporation farmers.

I have been surprised to find this part of the Delta so much different in its thinking toward Negro leadership. Here's their reasoning as expressed by a report of the Race Relation Committee of the Delta Council: "In a thoughtful and sympathetic but realistic consideration of the Delta's biracial problem, recognition must be given to two fundamentals: First, that the best thought of the leaders of both races in the South is that the Southern system of segregation will promote the peaceful and cooperative relations of both races. This is a recognized sine qua non of Southern racial adjustment. Likewise, so far as the Delta is concerned, another sine qua non of peaceful and cooperative racial relation is political control by the white man." This seems to be their creed.

I am sending some information on the Delta Council. This organization seems to control the economical and political life of the Delta. Mrs. Dorothy Lee Black, a young white woman from Iowa, who married a Southerner is the manager and guiding spirit of this organization. Dr. H. H. Humes, a Negro Minister, and Pres. of the State Baptist Convention, introduced me to Mrs. Black. I took an hour of the time and sold her the Job and Farm Training Program for Negroes in this area. Mrs. Black knew Dr. Odum and the work of the SRC, so I had a few things in my favor already.

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DIRECTOR OF VETERANS SERVICES

Before I met Mrs. Black I had a conference with Mr. Henry T. Crosby (W), a Jewish Business man who also was sold on the Job and Farm Training project. Mr. Crosby was a member of the Veterans Information Committee and naturally had a lively interest in veterans affairs. Mr. Crosby said that he could arrange to get expert instructors for classes in farm mechanics to teach Negro Veterans how to operate and repair farm machinery.

Here's the situation I put up to them, a Mr. W.T. Stokes (W), who is the "Y" secretary was invited recently to see just how farming in the Delta could be and was being completely mechanized. Whenever I got to talking, I'd cite Mr. Stokes' account, then I'd point out that negroes were the main source of labor in this area and if we didn't train these negro laborers (veterans) as mechanics then some of the farmers wouldn't be able to keep up with the new trends because of the lack of skilled <u>suitable</u> labor. Their own secret fear is of some skilled white <u>organized</u> laborers moving in to get the kind of jobs that mechanized farming will create — this helps to sell Job and Farm Training for Negroes to this section.

Mrs. Black welcomed my suggestions and promised to give the support of the Delta Council in promoting Job and Farm Training.

A Negro Minister, Rev. Leo Spencer Pounds, seems to be the most useful citizen in this town. He's well educated, yet he's able to maintain that "common touch". Rev. Pounds is respected among the Negro people and has the confidence and the fear of the most white people in this area. This is my key man in this section.

A Miss Ethel Payne is in charge of the Veterans Information office here, a refined woman from a wealthy Southern family, whose father was considered a friend of Negroes. I had a long talk with Miss Payne yesterday. She has a real interest in race relations. On my advice she appointed two Negroes, Rev. Pounds and Rev. Humes, to a committee to investigate the places where veterans are on job training.

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GEORGE S. MITCHELL
DIRECTOR OF VETERANS SERVICES

Rev. H. H. Humes, editor of the local Negro newspaper, introduced me to the editor of the Delta Democrat Times, Mr. Hodding Carter (W). I explained my mission to Mr. Carter and said that I was employed by the SRC; when he heard this he beamed all over. Mr. Carter had just been notified that he'd been elected to the Board of Directors of the SRC. Negroes in this section have an able and fearless friend in Mr. Carter. He pledged his support to our program. I promised to keep him informed on our work in Mississippi.

There are approximately one hundred fifty veterans on Job Training in this section; Negroes share about equal with the white fellows

Here's an idea I am trying in this section. My friend, Rev. Rounds will ask the Delta Council to mimeograph letters to all the Negro Veterans (list of veterans and their addresses to be obtained through Mrs. Black's office from the Selective Service Office) inviting them to meet at one of the churches in their immediate communities if they are interested in learning a trade and a job. (Letter to be composed by the official veterans office). Miss Payne, the head of the Veterans Office will give out the information to the group.

Here is our list of "Solid Citizens in the Greenville Area".

Mr. W. E. Stokes (W)
Washington County YMCA
Phone 428
Greenville, Miss.

Mr. Henry T. Crosby (W)
115 South Popular St.
Phone 1066
Greenville, Miss.

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GUY B. JOHNSON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

IRA DE A. REID
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ATLANTA 3, GEORGIA

GEORGE S. MITCHELL
DIRECTOR OF VETERANS SERVICES

Mr. George Archer (W)
City Clerk
City Hall
Greenville, Miss.

Mr. Emmet Harty (W)
205-8 Weinberg Bldg.
Greenville, Miss.

Mr. Hodding Carter (W)
Delta Democrat Times
Greenville, Miss.

Miss Ethel Payne (W)
Veterans Information Center
City Hall
Greenville, Miss.

Rev. Leo Spencer Pounds (C)
320 Persimmon Street
Greenville, Miss.

Rev. H. Leonard Clark, D.D. (C)
Pastor St. Matthew, AME Church
Cor. Nelson and Sunflower St.
Greenville, Miss.
Phone 2345 X J

Rev. H. H. Humes
Editor Delta Leader
1513 Alexander St.
Greenville, Miss.

Mrs. Dorothy Lee Black (W)
Manager Delta Council
Stoneville, Miss.

Best wishes to you and the staff.

Your Friend
Harry L. Wright

A Council to attain, through research and action, the ideals and practices of equal opportunity for all peoples in the South.

GUY B. JOHNSON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

IRA DEA. REID
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ROOM 432, 63 AUBURN AVENUE, N. E.
ATLANTA 3, GEORGIA

GEORGE S. MITCHELL
DIRECTOR OF VETERANS SERVICES

Field agent (Wright

9 February, 1946.

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services
Room 424, 63 Auburn Ave. N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia.

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

From Greenville, Mississippi, I came over to Greenwood. Through some friends in Greenville, I met a Mr. James Bishop, owner of the biggest cafe for Negroes in the town, Exalted Ruler of the local Elks Lodge, and a kind of fellow that knows everybody and that everybody knows. Mr. Bishop was a valuable man to me. He arranged for me to stay at one of the fine homes in the town and then proceeded to give me and idea about the situation in Greenwood. I always listen to these kind of conversations from my people without giving my comments, then, I quietly take a look on the "other side of the fence".

Taking a look on the "other side of the fence", I found the Greenwood Office of the Veterans Administration . In the office I was given prompt attention (my brief case probably drew their attention) and was ushered in to talk Job and Farm Training with Mr. Dan W. Denman, Registration Officer.

I gave Mr. Denman my credentials, and said my usual little introductionary piece. Readily I could tell that he was a refined fellow by the man-to-man attitude he assumed toward me.

He told me that Job Training was just getting underway there but already there were about seventy-five Negro Veterans on the program. I asked what were the problems he was finding in getting Negroes on Job Training. Finding suituable training establishments; he thought were the worst of the problems. He cited an instance where the owner of the Collin Shoe Shop was charging Negro Veterans $10.00 per month to work in his shop in order for these veterans to qualify for the Government's subsistence allowances. The VA office legally had no authority to intervene and since there weren't any veterans organizations for Negroes to complain about the evil - the veterans were "out on the limb". The owner of the Collin Shoe Shop is a Negro. I asked for the address and the name of the owner of this business; thanked Mr. Denman for his interest and information and left.

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At the County Court House, I located the County Judge's Office. The Judge was Mr. M. F. Pierce, an old gruff sort of big fellow, who acts and looks the part of a typical County Judge. I walked into his office before I realized he was dictating a letter - in a very rude manner he informed me to get out until he wanted to see me. Politely, I went out, politely waited and when he invited me in I was still polite, friendly and sincere in telling him what I was trying to do in his county. After I finished talking, he asked me to go by to meet some of the leading white citizens and to tell them that he sent me. (I had already asked him, "Shall I tell them that you sent me, Judge?") When I was ready to leave his office he stood, stuck out his hand and said if there was anyway he could help out in this program to let him know. I passed his word on to the Negro Leaders whom I met. Judge Pierce is also County Service Officer.

Dr. George H. Lane, a Negro Doctor, is the most civic-minded man in his community. Dr. Lane is President of the Negro Civic Organization in Greenwood. His organization has solicitated about $6,000. from the community for some kind of community project - but somehow they haven't been able to work out a program. I got an idea, right here - here was an organization well known in the community and with money in their pockets; idle, only because they didn't have some worthwhile projects that could get the public's approval. I told Dr. Lane, about this Negro Businessman in his own backyard who was exploiting Negro Veterans just because such organizations as his weren't doing anything. I explained how his organization could promote a training programs for veterans, and I pointed out how it would be a good business proposition for the community. Somehow it's easier for the average-thinking fellow to understand things better when things are explained in dollars and cents values. Dr. Lane, was sold on this veterans' program idea. Frankly, I believe the interest of his organization is only because of the popular favor a veterans program will have with their public - yet there is "so much good in the worst of us". I think this idea of finding some already existing community organization in areas then selling them our veterans program as their project will find favor in most of the communities.

I arranged a conference with the County Superintendent of Education, Professor L. S. Rogers. It was a real pleasure meeting an old gentleman like Professor Rogers. He does his job in a quiet manner - in his county alone, he has six Negro Vocational Agriculture High Schools. He explained it this way to me, " I look out for my Colored Schools just like I do for my White Schools." Looking at the Yazoo County School System with not <u>one</u> vocational agriculture high school for Negroes, I find a great deal of respect for both Professor Rogers and his statement. Professor Rogers gave me the names and the addresses of all his vocational agriculture high schools for Negroes: I have the On-the-Farm Training Program in mind.

As usual I visited the local Negro High School, a modern business-like institution. This is the best looking school for Negroes I have yet seen in Mississippi, and as always there is a good, progressive man leading it - Professor L. H. Threadgill. I was well pleased with the training and advice Professor Threadgill was giving the veterans, enrolled in his school.

At the request of Dr. Lane, I went by and met the chairman of the board of education, Dr. L. B. Otkins, a matter-of-fact kind of person, whom I believe sincerely has the interest of all the people in his community. Dr. Otkins said that our kind of work was very much needed and assured me of his interest and his cooperation.

Whenever I visit a town I am always sure to walk down in the slum section of town (leaving my brief case at my room) stopping in the barber shop for a shave or a shoe shine and saying hello and exchanging a few words with several of the veterans who are sure to be always hanging out there. These kind of my people sometimes feel things quite a bit different than the leading Negro Citizens in a community, and they are important - because they constitute the masses who need the most help.

Here seems to be the situation in Greenwood, the Negro seems to be just there - nobody seems to be especially concerned about him one way or the other. He seems to have white friends who still regard him as their ward. It's an encouraging thing to find that nobody is fighting him or his progress, openly.

Here is our list of the "Solid Citizens in Greenwood":

Prof. L. S. Rogers (W)
County Supt. of Education
Court House Bldg.
Greenwood, Miss.

Dr. Geo. H. Lane (C)
109½ Johnson St. Phone 406
Greenwood, Miss.

Dr. L. B. Otkins (W)
Medical Bldg.
Fulton St.
Greenwood, Miss.

Prof. L. H. Threadgill (C)
Greenwood Colored High School
Greenwood, Miss.

Mr. M. F. Pierce (W)
County Judge
LeFlore County
Greenwood, Miss.

Mr. Dan W. Denman (W)
Registration Officer
Veterans Administration
Greenwood, Miss.

Dr. Norton Taylor (C)
205 Carlonton St.
Greenwood, Miss.

Yazoo City, located in the center of a young oil field and at the foot of what Delta folk call the "Hill Country", was the next place I visited. Dr. Robert Harrison jr. an old friend of school days, located living quarters in the community for me. After getting settled, I set out to survey the veterans setup.

I like to get around towns sometimes on my own, just to get that average veterans' feeling. I saw a sign on a building where the Red

Cross was giving information to veterans. In the little dark segregated reception room, I introduced myself to a clerk; at once she invited me in to see the office manager, Mrs. Joe Lightcap. I could tell right away that Mrs. Lightcap was uneasy, even after she had seen my credentials - so I gave her my little talk: 'I am a Jackson boy; sold papers on the streets; Red Capped at the railway station; went to the public schools; to Tuskegee; off to the war and here I was back in Mississippi, trying to help these Colored Veterans to get settled down.' From then on, I was "Harry" to her. She talked freely and gave me a complete view of the affairs of veterans in Yazoo City. She was very concerned about the Negro Veterans being misinformed about their benefits. Mrs. Lightcap was very pleased with our organization's program of interesting community leaders in the veterans' problems.

At the county agent's office, I talked Job and Farm Training with the Home Demonstration Agent, Mrs. Lillie S. Handy and asked her advice about how to help the fellows to get adjusted; visited the local Veterans Service Office. Mrs. W. H. Hester, was in charge - about all I can say about the services her office is rendering to Negro Veterans is that she knows how to fill out some of the forms required.

I talked with several of my fellow-veterans on the streets; and every one generally was concerned only in getting into some kind of job where he could make "some of this quick money". I explained this attitude of veterans to Mr. R. J. Pierce, one of the leading Negro Businessmen, and Secretary of the Yazoo City Negro Fair Association, in trying to interest his organization in aiding veterans.

The veterans' outlook in Yazoo City isn't encouraging at all. Everybody who is in authority there or have some influence with the authorities seem to be too concerned about making a dollar to be really interest in helping veterans. This community seems to be trying to tear away from its agricultural economy.

I plan to court Mr. Pierce's Negro Fair Association in order to try to do something worthwhile for veterans in this area. These are some persons who seem interested in veterans' problems in Yazoo City:

Mrs. Joe Lightcap (W)
American Red Cross Office
Yazoo City, Miss.

Mrs. Lillie S. Handy (C)
Home Demonstration Agent
Yazoo City, Miss.

Mrs. W. A. Hester (W)
Veterans Service Officer
Box 494
Yazoo City, Miss.

Mr. R. J. Pierce (C)
Commerce St.
Yazoo City, Miss.

Arriving back in Jackson, I was invited to speak to a group of veterans who are organizing a club while enrolled in Jackson College; a swell group of fellows who really want to do something worthwhile - here was another organization for me, "tailor made" for the kind of job I am trying to get over to veterans. I took the situation in hand.

I had a conference with Mr. Reddix and Mr. Easom, and with their advice, my trip down through South Mississippi was planned.

Mr. Robert Morrow, Adjutant, State Department of the American Legion, warmly greeted me when I stopped in to say hello and to bring greetings from some of his friends whom I had met in the Delta Area. Mr. Morrow asked me to inform him anytime I found conditions unfavorable to Negro Veterans. That's a step forward.

With best wishes to you and the rest of the SRC family, I am

Your friend

Harry L. Wright

HARRY L. WRIGHT

- -

Field agent

February 14, 1946

Mr. Harry L. Wright
1244 Pittsburgh Street
Jackson, Mississippi

Dear Harry:

Many thanks for your letter of the 9th. You are still doing a grand job. I particularly enjoy your reports.

We should begin to think now about your next state. I have thought maybe you could take on Arkansas beginning April 1st. You size up the situation and let me know how that seems.

I have agreed to be at a Negro Veterans Institute at Dillard University in New Orleans March 7th and 8th. If you haven't got something else important scheduled, I suggest you be there with me these two days.

I keep getting hints that federal money is shortly to be available to the states to enable them to improve the supervision of job training. More about this next time.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

GUY B. JOHNSON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

IRA DEA. REID
ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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SOUTHERN REGIONAL COUNCIL, Inc.

ROOM 432, 63 AUBURN AVENUE, N. E.
ATLANTA 3, GEORGIA

GEORGE S. MITCHELL
DIRECTOR OF VETERANS SERVICES

Fellowship

16 February, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
Room 424, 63 Auburn Avenue, N.E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

I have just returned to Jackson from a trip through part of South Mississippi, Brookhaven and McComb, Mississippi.

In Brookhaven I found a progressive Negro Leadership and I found a progressive community. This is the usual rule. Professor A. A. Alexander, Principal of Alexander High School is the guiding spirit of the community.

At the invitation of Professor Alexander who was one of my old High School teachers, and my brother Amos who leads the Social Science department, I was invited to the High School to speak at the assembly and to talk with a group of veterans enrolled there in the school.

I wrote once that the school at Greenwood was the best looking school I had yet seen in Mississippi for Negroes. The Alexander High School surpassed any other school I have seen, not only in appearance, but in its work with the community.

I met with this group of veterans (high school boys) and I told them what I was trying to do. I told them about the group of fellows in Jackson College and what I had suggested to that group. They were the forward thinking people in their community, I told them, and that they were responsible to the future of our progress to pass on their knowledge to some of the other people who could not understand as well as they could. This was plain language and they understood and caught the spirit. These fellows suggested that I meet with all the Negro veterans in the community and talk with them while I was in town. They said that they could get out there in the town after school and drag every veteran they could find in to a big meeting. Principal Alexander and Professor Wright were all for such a meeting of this kind. I told them that I would get one of the veterans contact officers to come down to the Lodge Hall where the meeting was to be held, to speak to the group because I wanted the fellows to get information only from official sources. Our plans were laid for the next night at 7:00 p.m.

Ltr. to Dr. Mitchell - Cont'd. -
16 February, 1946

In the small town of Brookhaven I searched the town for some kind of Veteran Information Center; finally a policeman directed me to one. I went up two flights of stairs and knocked on several doors in the dark hall-way. (There were no signs anywhere.) Behind one door I heard a typewriter and was invited inside a little dingy-looking room with a few old chairs, a table and a typewriter. This was the veterans' connection with their "G.I. Rights." The Service Officer was busy filling out some forms for two white veterans. I took a chair right in the room where they were discussing their business--there was no other place for me to sit--the room was too small, even for segregation. In order to get me out of the room, the Service Officer stopped his work with the White fellows to see what I wanted. I politely offered to return later when he wouldn't be busy. I left his office and made a decision. This wasn't the type of man to speak with a hopeful group of Negro veterans. I would appeal to the Veterans Administration in Jackson to send me an official down to Brookhaven for this meeting.

Prof. Alexander agreed to drive me up to Jackson and back to Brookhaven in order that I could personally make the appeal; to get their advice, I went by Mr. Easom's office in the Capitol Building and by Mr. Morrow's office (American Legion). Neither of the gentlemen were in their offices. I went directly to the Veterans Administration and asked to speak with Mr. J. E. Easom, Assistant Chief of Rehabilitation and Training under the G.I. Rights Bill. Mr. Easom is cousin to my friend, Dr. Easom of the Education Department.

I introduced myself, told him that I was a very good friend of Dr. Easom and that Dr. Easom had extended to me his blessings in what I was trying to do. When I finished talking he told me that, instead of sending one of his assistants, he personally would drive down that fifty-six mile trip and talk with this group, and that he would be on time. "The only reason I won't be there, Wright," he said, "will be because of death or a wreck." He took me around his office and introduced me to his chief, a Mr. W. F. Wheatley, and asked that I tell his boss the little speech I had given him. I didn't miss the opportunity.

The afternnon of the meeting , this group of High School veterans, Prof. Alexander and Prof. Wright got out in the town and visited all the barber shops, poolrooms, the movies and every other place the fellows congregate, inviting all the veterans to this meeting. That night at ten minutes of seven, there were more than one-hundred veterans seated in the Lodge Hall; by ten minutes after seven o'clock, the number had increased to more than one-hundred thirty veterans. I had asked Mr. Easom to arrive by 7:15 p.m.; at 7:13 p.m. he walked in the door, accompanied by two of his assistants, an ex-Colonel Smith and an ex-Lieut. Colonel Land.

Ltr. to Dr. Mitchell -Cont'd. -
16 February, 1946.

Mr. Easom talked to the fellows in a friendly, plain sort of way and gave them every detail of their rights as veterans. He told them that he realized he was talking to a 100% Negro Group of Veterans. He told them that these benefits were not for White or Colored as such, but for Veterans, no matter what their colors were. He told them the people of the United States felt that they had earned these rights by their service to their country in a time of distress, and that they needn't think he was some foreigner from the North or somewhere, who was trying to sneak in and to say something that people down here wouldn't like. He said he was born right here in Mississippi. After his speech the fellows asked questions. The entire meeting lasted more than two hours. After the meeting, I walked outside of the building with Mr. Easom and I told him what everyone of those veterans had in their hearts. "Thank God for a White Leader in Mississippi like him." He told me that anytime I had something worthwhile like this project, I could always call on him and expect his fullest cooperation.

The Negro Chamber of Commerce, through Prof. Alexander, plans to get these fellows together again and organize them into groups according to their (the veterans) interests, in order to best help them get some kind of training. This is a community to watch.

In McComb, I found poor Negro leadership, a poor school program and an unprogressive community. This too, is the usual rule.

There are no Negro doctors, not even one Negro postman, one or two small Negro businesses here and there. Here indeed, does the Negro get the "crumbs that fall from the table."

Prof. C. D. Higgins is Principal of the local Negro High School there. There is a good building, poorly kept. There are only four veterans enrolled there. I talked with the Principal, the teachers and a few people in the community. These people knew very little about any of the veterans training programs.

I went about the town, I looked and asked questions, and talked with shoe-shine boys (wearing the honorable discharge emblem) barbers, cab drivers and preachers, but no one knew exactly where to even find the Veterans Information Center in the town.

At the railroad office, I went by to see an old friend, Mr. R. Elzy, Division Chief Dispatcher for the I.C. Railroad. He frankly told me that, in that area nothing was being done for the Negro veterans by the Illinois Central, but they were training a large number of the White veterans. I understood.

I located the American Legion Service Officer, Mr. H. Rey Bonney, a local business, who gave assistance to veterans in connection with his work in his printing office. He assured me that he was helping all the Negro veterans who came to him for help because, "I like good Negroes; I have one cook who has been with me for thirteen years, and I feel so sorry for Negroes because they don't have anybody to look out for them." I thanked him for his interest, no matter what his motives were.

Ltr. to Dr. Mitchell - Cont'd. -
16 February, 1946

Principal Higgins and the Negro Civic League promised to get all the veterans together in that area as soon as I can arrange to get some Veterans Administration official to talk to the group. Arriving back in Jackson, I visited the Veterans Administration, expressed my appreciation for their cooperation on the Brookhaven Meeting and asked to have one of the veterans contact officers to meet with the McComb Group as soon as I furnished a date. They were pleased with the first meeting and naturally, would be glad to help out again. Next week I plan to visit Hattiesburg and try to arrange a meeting there and at McComb.

The on-the-farm-training program is to be approved by the Veterans Administration in Washington this week-end. I am going in to see Mr. Fatherree, State Supervisor of Vocational Agricultural Training, Monday about Farm Training. I'll keep you informed on this project.

Best wishes for your personal health and the success of our work. Please say hello to the folk in the office.

Your friend,

Harry L. Wright

Harry L. Wright

HLR:rkj
enclosure

Field Report

February 20, 1946

Mr. Harry L. Wright
1244 Pittsburgh Street
Jackson, Mississippi

Dear Mr. Wright:

Perhaps you would like to fill in one of these applications. Also please note the last paragraph of the letter, in case you run into job openings or people looking for openings.

I think you must be out of the blue Expense Account blanks, and I am sending you some more under separate cover. Also, I am mailing you some five-by-eight blank pads. If you will stick your "solid citizens" on these sheets like the attached sample, it will save my having to copy them from your letters to go in the file box.

At last the Veterans Assistance Program book has arrived, and it is on its way to you.

Sincerely,

(Mrs. Ray Warwick)

Your reports are certainly interesting.

PAUL D. WILLIAMS, RICHMOND
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P. B. YOUNG, NORFOLK
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT
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GEORGE S. MITCHELL
DIRECTOR OF VETERANS SERVICES
RAY WARWICK
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

Southern Regional Council, Inc.

ROOM 432, 63 AUBURN AVENUE, N. E. ATLANTA 3, GEORGIA

A Council to attain, through research and action, the ideals and practices of equal opportunity for all peoples in the South.

February 20, 1946

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Sincerely,

Anna S. Warwick

(Mrs. Ray Warwick)

Your reports are certainly interesting.

Field agent

HLW

February 23, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Director of Veteran Service
Room 424, 63 Auburn Avenue, N.E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

I have spent most of my efforts this week trying to see the inside of this On-The-Far-Training Program.

Mr. A. P. Fatherree, Supervisor of Vocational Agriculture Education, and Mr. W. F. Wheatley of the Veterans Administration, are the two officers who are responsible for getting the On-The-Farm-Training Program started. I visited Mr. Fatherree's office two times in one day trying to arrange a conference with him on the Farm Training Program. His secretary couldn't give me an appointment with him because he was meeting with some one of the Legislative Committees. The next morning, I found him in his office and I kept him there until I could get an idea of what was going on. Mr. Fatherree explained that the real delay in getting Farm Training underway was due to the delay of Veterans Administration officials in Washington. For the past three weeks they have been promised by Washington that approval was on-the-way.

I wanted to know what were the plans for Negro veterans in the initial set-up. The Vocational Agriculture Department, Mr. Fatherree explained, didn't have enough Negro Vocational Agriculture teachers to supervise the training of all the Negro veterans in all the places that they would need training; therefore, the Department was planning to use White Vocational Agriculture teachers in areas where there was no Negro Vocational Agriculture set-up. He said further that the same training facilities used by White veterans in such an area would be used by the Negro veterans on different days. Confidentially, Mr. Fatherree told me that they realize that their White Teachers, teaching two groups, would soon find a way to work both the White and Negro veterans together. "It's a funny thing, Wright," he said, "but nobody objects to this arrangement. Here in our Biennial Report on Vocational Education to the Mississippi Legislature, we have pictures of White and Negroes taking courses right together." I smiled at Mr. Fatherree's statement, and I understood. "Necessity is the mother of invention"-- in order to qualify their Department to receive as much tuition as possible, and in the meantime, "to get around" expanding the Negro segment of the Department; these officials would scrap Mississippi's White-Teachers-for-Whites, and Negro-Teachers-for-Negroes rule. Yet, it's always wise for Negroes to salvage the most good from whatever situation the White man creates; ideal situations are rare.

Ltr. to Dr. Mitchell (Con't.)

2/23/46

Mr. Fatherree expects Veterans Administration approval by next Thursday; at this time there will be a meeting of the Vocational Agriculture officials and the Regional Veterans Administration officials; I have been invited to sit in on this conference.

At the Veterans Administration office, again I talked with Mr. Wheatley who promised that if he didn't get approval on the Farm Training Program by Monday, he'd call Washington everyday. There seems hope then that we'll be able to start Farm Training this week. I am worrying them every opportunity I get, in order to see that Negro veterans get right on this program in the beginning.

I visited Hattiesburg and I saw a progressive small city, a progressive Negro Leadership and evidence of good race relations. Prof. N.R. Burger, Principal of the Negro High School, was my host while in Hattiesburg. In this community, the school is the key to the progress of the Negro community. Young, able Prof. Burger, who is a home-town boy, is the moving spirit of this community. He has created a feeling in the Negro community that the school is their instrument for improving their communities. Hattiesburg is the liberty town for the soldiers stationed at nearby Camp Shelby. It was an interesting example of cooperation between Negro and White leaders in working out plans for handling these soldiers, in order to prevent racial conflicts. Their plans were most successful.

I have visited U.S.O. Clubs in most of the larger cities of the South--yet, I have never seen a U.S.O. Club for Negroes that surpasses this Club in the usefulness of its program or in its appearance. Mr. Herman L. McClain is program director. Mr. McClain has done a fine job here in the club and the three Negro communities.

There are a large number of up-to-date Negro businesses in the community: four Negro doctors, a Negro druggist and a couple of fleets of cabs owned by Negroes. The school owns a football field that is lighted for night games. The USO Club is being turned over to the city as a community house for Negro organizations. This is the kind of community veterans find in Hattiesburg.

Prof. Burger puts it this way--"Live a clean life here--the Negroes respect you and the White people are glad to have you and will do anything they can to help a good man out."

There are two loosely organized Veterans' organizations for Negroes; one organization is for World War I Veterans and another is for World War II Veterans. In each instance "the kettle is calling the pot black" and neither one is doing anything but fighting among themselves.

I located Mr. James Bell, President of what he calls The Veterans League of the United States, which is right now nothing more than a name. I asked Mr. Bell to tell me all he knew about his organization. They have no policies and they have no definite aims--all that they do have is an urge to organize "something for the interest of World War II Veterans." I outlined something that an organization such as his could do. I told him about the Veterans Group at Jackson College and at Brookhaven, and what they were doing. I have suggested that these three organizations get in touch with each other and exchange ideas.

Ltr. to Dr. Mitchell

1/23/46

Here's the situation in a nutshell: I have talked with both White and Negro Leaders; I am convinced of the good racial feelings, I could see the city building. The fine school program caught my eye, the community building and the community organizations for Negroes were inspiring; yet I found that the Job Training Program confined the Negro veterans to the same old trades. The industries that were springing up around there still limited their Negro employees to the Laborers' classes, only. Hattiesburg is the most progressive city in Mississippi, yet the Negro Veterans who struggle away from the battle fields of the world can expect to move back to the same old pattern of living, if he moves back to the "progressive" city of Hattiesburg. Yet, who will doubt the future ? A good house is always built on a good foundation. Hattiesburg has something of a good foundation.

My best wishes to you and the staff.

Your friend,

Harry L. Wright

Harry L. Wright

HLW/rkj
Enclosure

Circular
No. 61

Veterans Administration
Washington, D. C., March 14, 1946.

SUPERVISION OF VETERANS ENROLLED FOR COURSES OF TRAINING

1. With the view to ascertaining whether the veteran in training under Public Law 346 actually is pursuing a bona fide course of training and with the further view to making more definite the determinations with reference to the conduct and progress of enrollees as provided for under Paragraph 2, V.A. Instruction No. 4; Paragraph 3, Instruction No. 5; and Paragraph 7, Instruction No. 7, Title II, Public Law 346, Managers are authorized and directed to institute direct supervision of veterans enrolled in schools and training-on-the-job establishments to the extent necessary to protect the interests of the Government and the veteran.

2. It is to be emphasized that the supervision will be of the veteran enrollee. The supervision will not be of the school or the training-on-the-job establishment, such supervision being prohibited by the first sentence of Paragraph 8, Part VIII, Title II. The necessity for and the importance of determining whether the veteran is actually pursuing a course of training at the place where he is enrolled and whether his conduct and his progress in the course are satisfactory will be evident from the fact that affirmative showing in these questions is the only basis upon which subsistence allowance is payable under Paragraph 6, Part VIII, and on which continuance of payments is authorized under Paragraph 3, Part VIII.

3. With respect to veterans already enrolled under Part VIII and with respect to each veteran subsequently enrolled, VA Form 1905h will be prepared. The case of the veteran will then be assigned to a Training Officer and with respect to veterans in training-on-the-job the officer will call upon each training establishment and discuss with the proper officials, as may be necessary for mutual understanding, the significant provisions of the law and the policies of the V. A. governing training. He will then ascertain whether the veteran is pursuing a definite written program (course) of training and if so, he will obtain a copy of such course for V. A. records. A copy of any such program should likewise be in the hands of the veteran as basis for him to know what parts of the occupation he is expected to learn. If there is no definite course recorded, the training officer will explain that for the purposes of Public Law 346 it is necessary that a definite course be set down in writing, together with prescribed standards of progress and accomplishment, because it is only by observing evidence that a course exists at the establishment and is being pursued in accordance with prescribed standards that the V. A. may pay the veteran the subsistence allowance which the law makes payable only while the veteran is enrolled in and pursuing such a course. Also, a recording of the course is a common necessity as a basis for determining whether the veteran is progressing satisfactorily in the course. Determination that satisfactory progress is being made by the veteran is the basis upon which the continuance of subsistence allowance payments is authorized by the law.

4. In training-on-the-job situations, it will be considered that the veteran is enrolled in and pursuing a course where there is of record at the particular establishment a program of training for the veteran, in which program there are listed the major kinds of work which together make up the particular occupation for which the veteran is enrolled for training, and under each of these major kinds of work there are listed as many as practicable of the constituent work tasks, job operations, processes, and items of occupational information, together with time elements and standards of satisfactory accomplishment. It is equally necessary that there be in operation for the veteran in connection with the pursuit of his course a recording at frequent intervals of the kinds of jobs or tasks or activities in which the veteran engages at the establishment. So far as possible, these should be set down in terms which relate clearly to the particular elements of the veteran's training program or course so that it may at all times be evident what parts of the course the veteran has worked on and completed, so that it may be determined whether the veteran has progressed satisfactorily in the course during the time he has been in training. The veteran should not be required, nor permitted, to take any longer time to complete a course of training than the time necessary under reasonably good conditions; the veteran must not be allowed to continue in training status merely because he has further entitlement and desires to augment his income through the subsistence allowance. In order to avoid subsidized labor, the present rate of pay to the particular veteran will be observed to determine whether, considering the type of work he is doing in his training and the proficiency with which he is performing his duties, the veteran is being paid a sufficient rate of wage. No veteran shall be considered as pursuing a course of training-on-the-job under Public Law 346 unless it is clear that the course of training is definitely outlined; will qualify the veteran directly for appointment to the position for which the training is being given; and there is available, or there will be available, the particular position to which the veteran will be appointed upon completion of the course. The veteran will not be considered as pursuing a course if he is training for a position which cannot be attained directly as a result of completing the course.

5. If there is no recorded course and none will be prepared, it will be concluded that the veteran is not pursuing a course of training, and, therefore, under the terms of the law, may not be paid subsistence allowance. Thereupon, the establishment will be informed orally by the Training Officer, subject to confirmation in writing by the Manager, that because the veteran is not pursuing a course of education or training, subsistence allowance is not payable to that veteran in that establishment, and the veteran will, of necessity, be removed from the V. A. rolls. The veteran if he so desires may change to another training establishment and the V. A. may assist in any way that is feasible to find a suitable training establishment.

6. If there is no recorded course of training, but assurance is given by the establishment that such course will be recorded promptly, the veteran will be continued in training status in that institution for such period as is reasonably necessary to prepare the record of the course. Such assistance as may be desired by the institution and is feasible to provide will be rendered by the V. A. It is to be understood, however, that under the law the preparation of the course is the responsibility of the institution, not of the V. A.

7. Where the Training Officer in observing the activities of the veteran enrollee finds that the veteran is not progressing at a reasonable rate through the variety of activities which make up the recorded course, he will determine whether the failure is due to the establishment failing to afford the veteran that variety of activity which reasonably is to be expected. If it is found that the condition is due to failure of the establishment, it will be concluded that the veteran's progress is not satisfactory. In such case, the institution and the veteran will be advised orally, later to be confirmed in writing by the Manager, and unless assurance of correcting the defect is forthcoming, the veteran will be removed from training status in that institution. Similarly, where it is found that the veteran's conduct or progress is not satisfactory due to fault on his part, the situation will be discussed with the veteran and with the establishment, including warning that training will be discontinued unless correction is undertaken immediately. This will be confirmed by letter from the Manager. The veteran will be given reasonable opportunity to correct the defect. If the veteran fails to correct the defect to accord with the prescribed standards, he will be removed from training status under the provisions of Paragraph 3, Part VIII, Title II of the law. A veteran whose training is discontinued under these circumstances will not be restored to training status, except where there is given in writing by the veteran, satisfactory explanation of his failure and assurance which is considered by the Manager to be sufficiently reliable to warrant acceptance.

8. A copy of this instruction will be sent by the Manager to the appropriate agency of the State responsible for approving training establishments; also, a copy will be sent to each training establishment in which veterans are now or hereafter enrolled and pursuing a course of training. Additional copies of this Circular will be forwarded under separate cover to Managers of Regional Offices to provide for this distribution.

9. Managers responsible for the supervision of training as required by this instruction are authorized and directed to take steps necessary to procure personnel and other requirements for the purpose. (7 D)

By direction of the Administrator,

ELDON L. BAILEY,
Executive Assistant Administrator.

PAUL D. WILLIAMS, RICHMOND
PRESIDENT
P. B. YOUNG, NORFOLK
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Southern Regional Council, Inc.

ROOM 432, 63 AUBURN AVENUE, N. E. ATLANTA 3, GEORGIA

A Council to attain, through research and action, the ideals and practices of equal opportunity for all peoples in the South

23 March, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
Room 424, 63 Auburn Ave. N. E.
Atlanta, Georgia.

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

I arrived over here in Arkansas last Sunday night. Through our friend Attorney Booker, I got comfortably settled in a good place to live.

I am again making my approach over here from the angle of just getting acquainted. I am finding it as easy to get around and in to see officials as I found in Mississippi.

In getting started, I went by the office of Attorney J. R. Booker, presented my credentials and said hello. Attorney Booker introduced me to Father George G. Walker, Acting Secretary of the Urban League. Father Walker has set the facilities of his office at my disposal in getting my job done.

My first task over here I felt was getting in to see the heads of all the agencies who handle the affairs of veterans out in the other parts of the State. I wanted to let these men know what I was doing and how I felt and I wanted to know how they felt about the services their agencies were rendering to Negro Veterans particularly. I found every official with whom I talked concerned about how well their programs were benefiting Negro Veterans. Of course, I couldn't help them with an answer yet, but I have created in them an interest in the kind of things I am trying to do. All of them have asked me to come back in to see them and to tell them what I have found wrong and to tell them what I thought about the situation. Quite often, I had to suggest this procedure in a round-about way, but I gave them the idea, nevertheless.

Father Walker of the Urban League introduced me to a Rev. Jackson Green Negro County Probation Officer, who knew intimately the American Legion Officers. Through Rev. Green, I met Mr. Clovis Copeland, Assistant Adjutant of the State Department of the American Legion. Mr. Copeland received me in a most friendly fashion. He is a big fellow with a ready smile and by the "man to man" attitude in which we talked assured me that he was one of the new progressive thinking young White men. He expressed the liberal view that the American Legion was now taking toward Negro Veterans. He said it was no secret that there had been some Negro members of the American Legion in Arkansas for the past twenty-five years, but that they were members in name only. Mr. Copeland asked me to say to Negro Veterans in my getting around that within thirty days the American Legion would be organizating separate posts for Negroes with equal status to the posts

for White Veterans. His office would be pleased to give me an introduction around the State. I won't miss this opportunity.

It was no surprise when I visited the Veterans Administration Office not to find one Negro Veteran employed in any of the clerical or professional positions. In the State Manager's office, I introduced myself to a Colonel Thompson, who is the newly-appointed Assistant to the State Manager. Colonel Thompson admitted he knew very little about the work being done by the Veterans Administration here in Arkansas; so he called in one of the officers from the Contact Office, a Mr. Carl E. Wells. Mr. Wells was just one of those kind of people who "work" in a position. I couldn't get him to be specific about any of the services that the Veterans Administration was rendering. Our talk ended just where it had begun.

I had to insist on the information clerk to direct me to the office of the chief of Education and Training, Mr. A. G. Thompson, a cordial refined gentleman. We sat down and talked to-gether sincerely and friendly. I explained my interest and he explained the work of his office and asked me to be certain to come back in and to let him have my reflections on the effectiveness of their program with Negro Veterans. He offered the services of his office in any program designed to help veterans.

I noticed that the cab driver who carried me down to the Veterans Administration was a veterans and as usual I got in my little casual remarks: "I see you got that duck (Honorable Discharge Emblem) on too - when did you get out - man I know how you feel - how are you fellows getting along here - getting any good jobs?" I received the expected answers: including the fact that Negro Veterans were getting only the few traditionally "Negro Jobs". In one of the business blocks of the city, I found the employment office of the USES. At the "Colored" entrance I approached the information desk; the traditional little white girl who is hired to greet colored people was on hand. She was as discourtest to me as she was to any of the other Negroes who sought information there.

The officers in charge of veterans affairs in this office were reluctant to answer my questions - finally I was directed to the office of the State Veterans Employment Representive, Mr. Neil Reed. I introduced myself and said my usual little speech. I got very little information from Mr. Reed. His job was one of the usual political "plums" ; but he assured me that he was on the right side and that he knew all the other people around who were on the right side. He gave me the names of several other White Officials whom he thought my speech would impress and asked me to meet them and to say he had sent me.

On his advice I went in amd met Mr. John G. Pipkins, Veterans Officer, in the U. S. Compensation Commission; a real old timer in race relations work. Mr. Reed had told me that Mr. Pipkins "Practived what he preached" in his fair dealings with Negro Veterans. I expressed the appreciation of my fellows in having an official who would deal squarely with us. I asked about Mr. Pipkins in the Negro Community and I found that he was known as an honest straightforward man who would deal right by everybody. I have put this man down as a good man to know.

Mr. Pipkins asked me to go in to meet Dr. Palmer Patterson Director of the USES and Mr. Ralph B. Jones, State Commissioner of Education, and to say that he had sent me by to meet them because he knew they felt like he did about the kind of work I was interested in doing.

I have learned the value of making an appointment with busy executives by phone and then walking in his office at the exact minute of my appointment. In Dr. Patterson's office, Dr. Patterson greeted me in a friendly and courteous manner. He knew of the SRC, and he knew you, so we moved right down to discussing some of the problems of the fellows. I still appeared in the role of getting acquainted. I asked him to arrange to have some one show me around the employment center. He personally escorted me down to the center (through the White entrance) introduced me to the officers in charge and they told me their troubles. They are concerned that Negroes are refusing referrals to jobs and are applying for their unemployment compensation. I was asked why Negroes didn't understand about the whole situation. I promised to come back in to talk after I have had a good look around the State.

At the State Capitol, I located the office of ~~the State Commissioner~~ of Education, Mr. Ralph Jones. By his greeting I could tell that Mr. Jones was a man who had been around. I found him business-like, well informed, and informal in our conference. He explained all the minute details of the training program for veterans in his state. He answered all my many questions, straightforward. Mr. Jones asked me to make an observation of training setups for Negro Veterans as I got around and to inform him of my impressions. He admitted that quite a number of people were concerned about the Negro Veterans being offered new opportunies in order to entice them to remain in the South, and that these people had been in to talk to him about this. When our conference ended Mr. Jones rose shook my hand in a sincere manner and walked to the door of his office with me. I have his promise for the cooperation of his office in helping to get my work across.

In the State Department of Education, Mr. Ed McCuistion is supervisor of Negro Education. In my conference with Mr. McCuistion he explained his long interest in race relations and told me of a number of his experiences in working with educational institutions for Negroes in Arkansas. Mr. McCuistion will be able to give me a great deal of assistance in my getting around over the State but I am not sure about his "sincere interest" in view of some of the confidential reports I gather.

I found that the regional offices of the Farm Security Administration were located here. Mr. Ocie Lee Smith, a Negro, is the Special Representive of the Farm Security in this region. Through Mr. Smith I arranged a conference with Mr. E. B. Whitaker, Regional Director. Mr. Whitaker was most cordial and made every effort to be of service to me. He arranged a conference with several of his key men in trying to help me plan my field trips in the areas where the most Negroes lived. Both Mr. Whitaker and his staff have asked me to come back in and to give them my observations on the way Negro Veterans are using Farm Secuurity Administration.

From the Veterans Administration Offices to the State Capitol is about six blocks; in order to get to the capitol exactly on time for an appointment I decided to walk the distance. On my way I had to pass a used car lot; as I approached the lot, I noticed two white men standing at the entrance, one of the men caught my attention. He was a tall, big fellow and in his hand was a cane; the type of cane the "barkers" at the county fairs usually carry - as I approached him - a voice as big as he was, called out- "Fellow let me sell you something to-day". I walked close to him and in a quiet voice, I said, "I'm trying to sell something too", I explained that I was trying to sell Negro Veterans the idea of getting more training and better jobs so we can buy better homes and better cars and the like. His whole expression changed - he took my hand and shook it several times and said, "fellow this should have been done twenty years ago, that is what they need, I am glad to see that being done". I continued on my way, but I was thinking: here was a plain working Arkansas White Man expressing what was in his heart.

This is the man hardest to deal with down here. When such honest sentiments are found among this group of White people, we can feel certain that we're on the right track toward real progress.

Please say hello to the SRC family for me. Best wishes for your personal health and the success of our work.

Your friend

Harry L. Wright

HARRY L. WRIGHT

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Summary

SURVEY OF COMMUNITY VETERAN INFORMATION CENTERS

by

American Council on Race Relations

Note: This survey was conducted by Vincent Malveaux, ex-G.I., and supervised by a special committee of the American Council's board of directors under the chairmanship of Charles H. Houston, vice-president of the American Council on Race Relation's board of directors. This special committee included: Clarence E. Pickett, executive secretary of the American Friends Service Committee, Philadelphia, Pa.; Will W. Alexander, vice-president of the Julius Rosenwald Fund, of Chicago; Charles Dollard, Carnegie Corporation, New York City; Ernesto Galarza, Pan American Union, Washington, D.C.; Dr. Charles S. Johnson, director of Social Science Institute, Fisk University, Nashville, Tenn.; James G. Patton, president of Farmers' Educational and Cooperative Union, Denver, Col.; Willard S. Townsend, president of the United Transport Service Employees of America, Chicago; and A.A. Liveright, director of the American Council, Chicago.

> "Where our fighting men have stumbled in disillusionment through lack of home town counsel or concern they are already becoming bitter. Any short memoried community with citizens too busily engaged in their own peace time planning to give adequate care, counsel and guidance to their returning veterans, is not only making trouble for itself in the future but is neglecting its own priceless assets."
>
> General Omar K. Bradley
> Director
> Veterans Administration

A. PURPOSE OF THE SURVEY

This survey is an attempt to learn what is happening to the returning minority veteran, and to evaluate the services available to help him readjust to the peace-time community.

B. COMMUNITIES SURVEYED

The study covers Veterans Information Centers in the following twenty-one cities: San Antonio, El Paso and Houston, Tex.; Phoenix, Ariz.; Chicago, Ill.; St. Louis, Mo.; Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minn.; Philadelphia, Pa.; Los Angeles and San Francisco, Calif.; Gary, Ind.; Seattle, Wash.; New Orleans, La.; Bridgeport, Conn.; Atlanta, Ga.; Nashville, Tenn.; New York, N.Y.; Birmingham, Ala.; Cincinnati, Ohio; and Washington, D.C.

C. PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED (Examples of problems listed here will be found in Section D.)

1. Lack of Adequate Service for all Veterans

In most instances, there was an apparent lack of centralized community services and specialized counselling for both white and minority veterans. Most information centers act as referral agencies rather than providing the ideal "one-stop" counselling service as examplified by the centers in New York City, Bridgeport, Conn., and Los Angeles.

2. Segregation and Unequal Service to Minorities

Local patterns of discrimination and segregation prevail in centers that service both white and minority veterans. Minority veterans must contend with the same treatment in veterans' centers that they might expect to receive in any of the other social agencies of the community. Inadequate and unequal facilities and counselling service exist wherever separate facilities are set up to handle Negro, Japanese Americans and Mexicans.

3. Failure to Use Minority Counsellors Where Needed

With few exceptions, community centers do not avail themselves of Negro or other minority group counsellors, where the local population break-down would seem to warrant such a program. White counsellors, unfamiliar as they frequently are with the local minority communities, are seriously handicapped with respect to the counselling of minority veterans even though their intention be good.

4. Referral by USES to Menial Jobs Only

In most instances, USES agencies follow the pattern of the local community with respect to segregation and discrimination with the result that Negroes, Japanese Americans, and other minority veterans are referred, for the most part, only to menial job opportunities despite their qualifications and army acquired skills.

5. Referral for Unemployment Compensation Rather than Jobs

In many communities, the accepted method of "counselling" job-seeking minority veterans is to advise them to draw unemployment compensation rather than attempt to secure suitable employment for them. This pattern does not confine itself to the South and in all communities where it exists leads to group antagonisms. Aside from the injustice to minority veterans, this indifference to the aims of the veteran program is reflected in increased costs to the tax payer.

6. Failure of Apprenticeship Programs to Provide Training for Minorities

The survey revealed a decided lack of opportunity and provision for participation by minority veterans in such programs as apprenticeship training, retraining and rehabilitation. Instances are cited in the survey where apprentice training "opportunities" for Negroes included training as "porter", "truck-helper", "copy boy", and "lubricating man". It is evident from the limited facilities for apprenticeship training that Negroes will not be making any immediate inroads in the skilled classification of jobs.

7. Lack of FEPC Legislation Stimulates Employer Discrimination

Now that the war emergency is over and there being no protective FEPC, there seems to be a general "drying up" of job opportunities for the returning minority veteran with little or nothing being done by USES agencies to sell minority veterans to employers. Neither is there evidence that anything is being done to eliminate or even discourage discrimination by employers. USES officials have evidenced a decided unwillingness to persuade employers to use Negro, Japanese Americans, or other minority veterans.

8. Discrimination in Housing Projects for Veterans

In housing, minority groups meet continued discrimination and segregation even in the emergency housing programs aimed at meeting the housing needs of returning veterans and their families. This is true in both the community and college housing programs.

9. A Decided Lack of Knowledge on the Part of Minority Communities Concerning Available Facilities

In many localities, information concerning facilities available to veterans had not penetrated into the minority community. Without this knowledge, minorities don't put pressure on local agencies to get services.

D. EXAMPLES

1. Lack of Adequate Service for all Veterans

(a) In Birmingham, Ala., there was no central community project where either white or colored veterans could go for advice. Negro veterans seeking advice in the Veterans Administration sub-regional office state that they are directed to an information desk in the colored USO where the National Council of Negro Veterans have placed a woman secretary, untrained for this type of counselling, to answer the questions of Negro veterans.

(b) In Cincinnati, the Veterans Advisory Center is staffed by a director and two women interviewers from the Red Cross. The center acts as a referral agency only and is far from the ideal "one-stop" center proposed by General Bradley.

(c) Phoenix, El Paso and San Antonio are alike in their apathy concerning the plight of the returning veteran -- white, colored or Mexican American. These three communities have not seen fit to establish any central counselling service for the veteran, and he is expected to get all his information from his draft board and the local USES offices.

The director of the El Paso Society Service Exchange stated that this community had never been inclined to adopt organized methods of civic improvement. Reason for this inactivity was, "Only the Mexicans will use it." This, she stated, was the reason why veterans were not receiving consideration in El Paso.

(d) The Washington, D.C., veterans center can best be described as a place where the veteran goes to be directed to some other agency which might be able to handle his problem. Most Washington veterans speak of it as a place where veterans are given the "run-around".

2. Segregation and Unequal Service to Minorities

(a) The center in Atlanta, Ga., considered its obligation to the Negro veteran fulfilled by the services of one colored social worker, with no specialized training for this job. Among other indignities, the social worker, Mrs. Lena Sayles, was asked by the local director, Mr. John S. Bell, to do the janitorial work in the absence of the office janitor. She has since resigned.

(b) Although the survey commended the unsegregated Information Center in Houston, Tex., the USES office there presents a direct contrast. Colored and white are definitely segregated. The "white" office is large, well ventilated and chairs are provided for white veterans and civilians who are waiting. The colored veteran enters the building by way of a side entrance into a small office that was originally planned as a storeroom. On one side of the small room were piled boxes of trash, 20 large boxes of toilet paper, and 35 boxes of some type of weather-proofing material. Veterans were standing while waiting to be served. This differential between services rendered white and Negro veterans is typical of all USES services rendered in the South.

(c) While USES agencies are successfully finding placements for the army-acquired skills of white veterans, Negro, Japanese American and other minority veterans are being met with cold politeness, ridicule, or general hostility by USES officials in cities like San Francisco, Los Angeles, Houston, Tex., Nashville, Tenn., and Atlanta, Ga.

3. Insufficient Use of Minority Counsellors

(a) At the time Malveaux visited the New York City center, no Negro counsellors were being used. The officials revealed that they were interviewing prospective colored counsellors to "take the place of one that had recently left". In Chicago, also, no Negro counsellor is being used.

(b) In Houston, Tex., the USES has a separate office for the counselling of colored veterans. This colored office is staffed by white workers completely while veterans standing in line with qualifications to handle such jobs are being placed on unemployment compensation.

(c) The staff at the center in New Orleans, La., has debated the question of using a colored girl worker. The conclusion has been reached that it would be a step forward, but there was still the puzzle of how to solve such social questions as to rest room facilities, etc., and so therefore the question has been dropped.

(d) The survey showed no use of colored counsellors in Washington, D.C., Veterans' Center, and no one seemed aware of any plans to include them in the future.

(e) The Nashville, Tenn., Veterans' Information Center is located in the Cotton State Building, strictly "for white only". A veteran is directed to an Information window where a woman receptionist greets him and attempts to discover his problem. She then turns him over to one of eight white counsellors. Negro veterans, on the other hand, apparently have no serious problems because the few that do go there never get past the Information window. Although the white USES office is situated right across the hall, the colored office is five blocks away and has an all white staff also.

4. Referral by USES to Menial Jobs Only

(a) The policy of the USES office in St. Louis, Mo., when interviewing Negro veterans for job placement is to ask them what they did before they went into the service. Despite army acquired skills, these veterans are put right back into menial job classifications without having an opportunity for better jobs.

(b) An interviewer in the USES office at St. Paul, Minn., stated that he is well aware of many cases where there have been unfilled jobs and qualified Negro veterans with job applications in the office, yet the office would not send the Negro applicants to the firms.

(c) Willie Mays, a colored veteran, had been in the Signal Corps for 33 months, 20 months of which he spent in North

Africa and Italy stringing telephone lines and doing maintenance work. He was told by an army counsellor on separation to seek employment in this field. On being discharged, he reported to the colored branch of the USES in Birmingham, Ala., where the representative immediately told him, "Sorry, but we don't have that kind of work for you." However, white veterans being discharged from the Signal Corps are finding employment with the Birmingham Power Company. Mays is working as a porter with the Pullman Company.

(d) The USES office in Atlanta, Ga., reports that there are jobs open to Negro veterans as truck drivers and porters but no placements being made in skilled fields although applicants are on file that possess skilled qualifications in many fields.

(e) Mr. Richard Setsuda, a Nisei veteran of the 442nd Infantry Regiment and former Seattle business man, states that he sought employment at the Seattle USES office but was offered such menial jobs that he did not even consider them. A brewery owner promised him a job but because of anti-Nisei policy of local union he did not get that job either.

5. Referral for Unemployment Compensation Rather than Jobs

(a) A number of Nisei veterans that have visited the Seattle USES agency state that they were immediately told "you boys might as well apply for unemployment compensation for there are no jobs for you." These veterans are beginning to wonder what is going to happen to them when the unemployment compensation runs out.

(b) Because of discrimination in job opportunities, Negroes and Mexican Americans have been filing so many claims for unemployment compensation in the USES office in San Antonio, Tex., that one of the clerks in the section observed that "the placement department seems to do nothing but send these men over to file unemployment compensation claims."

(c) In the USES office in Houston, Tex., Jesse Jenkins, an honorably discharged veteran of the Air Corps, was standing in line to file his unemployment compensation claim. Although a college graduate and school teacher before entering the service where he was given clerical and administrative experience, Jenkins had just been told by the USES counsellor, "Sorry nothing in your line of work. If you were white, I could send you downtown, but.....". He was advised to file for unemployment compensation.

6. Failure of Apprenticeship Training Programs to Provide Training for Minorities

(a) In Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minn., no colored veterans are sharing in the apprentice training program, and both white and Negro spokesman stated that certain of the craft unions

were responsible for closing the doors to Negro veterans even in shops where employers were receptive. In Minneapolis, the Urban League Industrial Secretary, Mr. William Seabron, stated that colored veterans were not sharing in the apprenticeship training program even to the slightest extent.

(b) Negroes who apply for apprenticeship training in Houston, Tex., are told that openings have already been filled.

(c) The Chicago Urban League reports difficulty in finding apprentice training opportunities for colored veterans. Union agreements often exclude colored veterans, or employers are opposed to having colored veterans in their shops, the Urban League reports.

(d) Of 56 courses listed in a Tennessee State Department of Education pamphlet listing education and training facilities open to veterans, only 13 are available to Negro veterans. Of 176 veterans taking some form of apprentice training in Nashville, it was estimated that only seven or eight were colored.

(e) In Atlanta, Ga., the Information Center had a list of facilities which had State approved apprentice training programs under the G.I. Bill of Rights. There were 246 approved programs in the Atlanta area. The following six programs were the only ones in which Negroes were included:

Davis Service Station - Porter (Negro trainee)
Tire Recapper (Negro trainee)
Sears Roebuck - Porter (Negro trainee)
Truck-helper (Negro trainee)
Tire and battery changer (Negro trainee)
Strathmore Press - Copy boy (Negro trainee)
Greyhound Bus - Lubricating man (Negro trainee)
C.C. Hart Plumbing Co. - Plumbing (Negro trainee)
Harbour Quality Cleaners - Dry cleaning business (Negro trainee)

7. <u>Lack of FEPC Legislation Stimulates Employer Discrimination</u>

(a) A counsellor in the San Francisco, Cal., USES office stated that during the war a large number of firms were not the least bit interested in using Negro labor, but because of the FEPC bill they did not practice discrimination. No longer having to worry about FEPC censure, these firms are definitely not interested in using Negro labor. For the past few months, orders for Negro men have come only from the Southern Pacific Railroad to do track labor.

(b) Chicago USES officials in the South Parkway office (colored) state they have difficulty in finding employers who will accept Negro veterans in skilled job classifications. These officials have definite cases of rank discrimination but were reluctant to make them putlic or even turn them over to

Malveaux on a confidential basis. Reason: they were working on these issues and didn't welcome interference from other organizations.

(c) Mr. Robert Hazelwood, lone colored counsellor at the Philadelphia Veterans' Information and Advisory Center, states that countless times he has attempted to place colored veterans with college education or skilled training, but has met only with failure. Firms pleased with the veteran's qualifications were not so pleased on finding out his color.

(d) In St. Paul, Minn., the director of the Veterans' Information Center revealed that certain corporations had been placing requisitions with the Center for employment of veterans. No colored veterans had received appointments through such procedure, he said.

(e) The survey pointed out that the Western Electric Company in New Orleans, La., was seeking workers to take care of maintenance work. They favored veterans with Signal Corps experience, but qualified Negro veterans applying were given all types of alibis.

8. Discrimination in Housing of Veterans

(a) In Los Angeles, Cal., a number of Nisei veterans had expressed a desire to buy homes using the privileges under the G.I. Bill of Rights. They were immediately discouraged when they realized that because of restrictive covenants and customs they were confined to a choice of inferior houses in slum areas which would never be approved by Bank or Veterans' Administration appraisers.

(b) In San Francisco, Cal., Mr. Joe Grant Masaoka, Regional Representative of JACL, says that housing presents a greater problem for the returned Nisei veteran than that of employment.

(c) In such cities as New Orleans, Atlanta, Nashville, Birmingham and even in Chicago and Washington, D.C., the survey showed a decided lack of facilities for the proper housing of Negro veterans and their families with little or no opportunity to share in emergency veterans' housing projects.

9. A Decided Lack of Knowledge on the Part of Minority Communities Concerning Available Facilities

(a) In New York, the report points out, it was evident that most minority veterans, returning to segregated neighborhoods as they frequently do, were missing much of the detailed publicity concerning services and advantages being offered by local agencies.

(b) In the St. Louis, Mo., Veterans' Information Center it was the opinion of the acting director, Miss Betty Inman, that more colored veterans would make use of the Center if the colored community were more aware of the Center's facilities.

(c) In Cincinnati, O., the Veterans Advisory Center is located on the second floor of the Mercantile Library Building and consists of a director and two women interviewers. Most inadequate in every respect, nothing is done to advertise its location or services in the community.

(d) In such cities as Birmingham, Atlanta, Nashville and other Southern communities that show an indifferent attitude to Negro problems in general, little or nothing is done to inform the Negro communities of facilities available to veterans.

E. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION:

The American Council recommends the following action with a view toward improving all aspects of services to minority veterans:

1. Aggressive action on the part of Retraining and Reemployment Administration in providing assistance to communities in establishing "one-stop" information service.

2. That in every community center and USES office (a) there shall be one or more minority group counsellors depending upon the need, (b) interviewers and counsellors employed be selected on the basis of qualifications rather than on race or color, and (c) all counselling facilities of the staff be available to all veterans regardless of race or color.

3. A direct request to the national USES to instruct local officials (a) to take into consideration service-acquired skills of all veterans in making job referrals, and (b) to carry out a strict application of the recently adopted policy of USES on minority groups so that referrals to employers are made on the basis of qualifications for the job without regard to discriminatory specifications by employer. In this respect, local editors might initiate campaigns emphasizing the increased tax burden resulting from unwillingness on the part of employers to use qualified minority group workers.

4. The calling of a conference or meeting on the national level of the apprentice training division and craft unions to agree upon methods for opening apprenticeship training for minority groups.

5. Aggressive action on the part of veteran and other organizations attending the New York conference on minority veterans' problems to press for FEPC legislation, because without FEPC there are no legal methods by which discrimination against minority veterans can be corrected.

6. That, in the housing aspects of the education program, no veteran housing facilities be allocated to any educational institution that discriminates in the allocation of such housing; and in the community housing program for veterans, emergency housing shall be open to all veterans without discrimination.

7. That Negro, Japanese American, and other minority newspapers, as well as local community organizations, take special steps to insure the minority community a full knowledge of facilities available to the veteran.

3/29/46
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Southern Regional Council, Inc.

ROOM 432, 63 AUBURN AVENUE, N. E. ATLANTA 3, GEORGIA

A Council to attain, through research and action, the ideals and practices of equal opportunity for all peoples in the South

30 March, 1946.

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Ave. N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia.

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

After getting generally acquainted with the officials who run things out in the State; I took a trip down to Pine Bluff. All of the Negroes who handle the "Negro Side" of the official agencies are located in Pine Bluff at the Negro Agriculture and Technical College.

Of all the places I have visited, I have never received as hearty a welcome as I did at this college. Mr. Lawrence Davis, one of the local fellows who grew up in the "back yard" of the college is president. He is a young man, business-like, yet friendly; intellectual,yet common-place; both the cab driver who drove me out to the college and Mr. Ralph Jones, State Commissioner of Education told me of their respect for him.

At my conference with President Davis, I stated my mission and explained that I was not only interested in how well things were working out but also what things weren't working. Mr. Davis gave me this picture of the situation : There are more than four hundred veterans enrolled in the college. The college is accepting special students below college level for course in trades with a little of the "three Rs" thrown in the course. All the classes were overcrowded. He felt that they could do an excellent job with a certain number, but the enrollment of veterans had increased above the number with which they could do the most effective job of teaching. They were in dire need of more buildings for class rooms, more equipment and more teachers.

President Davis arranged for me to meet with the Coordinator of Veterans and the facualty committee. This committee informed me that they would be forced to refuse admission on April 1st to at least seventy-five veterans, due to the fact that they didn't have building space, equipment and teachers to handle them. This committee pointed out to me that they knew full well that no other school offerring trade education on this level was available to Negro Veterans anywhere else in the whole state of Arkansas.

Located at the college, here, is the only Guidance Center available to Negroes in the State. Mr. E. E. Evans, a former member of the college facualty, and a veteran of World War 11, is in charge. His office is very efficiently run and is rendering all kinds of services to veterans. In fact, this office is really the "Negro Headquarters of the Veterans Administration" in Arkansas. Mr. Evans took me in hand and made sure that I saw every feature of the veterans program in Pine Bluff.

Mr. Peoples, a former member of the college facualty, is assistant to the State Director of Trades and Industry (Vocational Education) for Negroes. Through his office, business establishments for the Job Training Program are approved. This is something new. He is also charged with the duty of supervising the job training.

I got in to see everything while I was over there. I visited all the trade classes; a representive number of the businesses where fellows are on job training; spoke to all the fellows in the three "Rs" classes; sat in on veterans vocational advice conferences; saw tests being given; and had "off the records" talks with a number of the veterans a'strolling on the campus.

Here's the situation: the classes are overcrowded, living quarters are completely filled (some temporary housing is suppose to be on the way there) and there are not enough teachers. Veterans are complaining that they are not getting the proper instruction because of the overcrowded conditions. On the other hand, I found a wide-awake group of teachers who have the sincere interest of the fellows in mind; an unusual liberal attitude of the White towns' folk: there is one large White Grocery Company that have put a Negro Mechanic in charge of a large company garage that services their fleet of some seventy-five heavy trucks and a fleet of fifty salemen's cars. Two Negro Veterans are on the job training program here.

An up-to-date Negro Tailoring Company is located on the main business street right in the middle of the business section. On the day that I visited his shop, there were more White People shopping there than Negroes.

After taking my look around; I had a conference with the Veterans Adviser, Mr. Evans, and Dean Johnson of the college and we worked out a group of training activities to be photographed and the school's public relation director agreed to do the stories. I am asking newspapers here to carry the stories. It is pleasing to see the interest the veterans in the area around the State College are taking in the training programs but until I see - I am worried about the areas of the State where Negro Veterans can't hear "the school bell ring".

I would like to go in and worry officials about the State College having to turn away at least seventy-five veterans because of the need of additional class room space, equipment and teachers, but I feel that my criticism will be more effective after I have seen all of the places. Yet, in the meantime, these veterans will be suffering.

I arrived back here in Little Rock, Friday to speak to the Military Committee of the Interracial Commission. This Committee is composed of four White Persons and five Negroes. A very fine group of people. The president of the Interracial Commission, Rev. Samuel F. Freeman, was present. He mentioned their plans for affiliating with the SRC.

This committee was a carry-over from the war period, and they were trying to gear their committee to work with the affairs of veterans. I gave a brief history of the SRC and the program of the veterans Service Division; a summary of my work over in Mississippi. I outlined my talks with officials since being here; and related the conditions I had just seen in the Pine Bluff Area. The fact that the Negro College had to turn away at least seventy-five Negro Veterans, who won't be able to get this type of training anywhere else in the State, created so much interest among the White Members of the committee until I could hardly finish my talk. That was exactly what I intended.

Here is my suggested program for this committee:

(a) Invite representives from all the official organizations to visit their meetings so that this committee can become well informed on the affairs of veterans from official sources.

(b) This committee should get to-gether an authoritative list of the names of officials who handle specific problems of veterans to-gether with a definite location of their offices. Such a list should be made available to all the community leaders and organizations both White and Negro; this committee should follow-up in urging community organizations to pass-the-word on to veterans.

(c) This committee should make a survey of types of training available to Negro Veterans in this area; to-gether with a survey of training facilities available for Negro Veterans. In this connection Selective Service should be asked to furnish the number of returned servicemen by race in this area.

(d) With a set of facts like these in hand, this committee should arrange conferences with the officials of the Department of Education, the Veterans Administration, other governmental and private organizations that officially handle veterans problems and work out some program to ascertain that all veterans get the maximum benefits.

(e) Finally this committee should keep in touch with developments and changes in the Laws affecting veterans and the officials of agencies concerned with veterans. This committee should let it be known that they have a lively interest in how effective a service these official agencies are rendering to <u>all</u> veterans.

Such a program as this would help the veterans, the community and promote a more wholesome relationship among <u>all</u> the people in the community.

My talk created quite a stir among the committee, and they promised to do something about the training conditions in Little Rock. We'll see - "the proof of the pudding is the eating". My trips have been planned over the State, I'll mail you copies at an early date. I'll appreciate any suggestions you can offer me on my work over here. My best wishes to you and the staff.

Your Friend

Harry L. Wright

HARRY L. WRIGHT

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P.S. My "Solid Citizen" list is being compiled.

Harry L. Wright

DELTA COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

1945 - 1946

RESUME OF ACTIVITIES

DELTA COUNCIL

April 1, 1945---March 31, 1946

Prepared for

Officers, Directors and Members

of

Delta Council

by

MEMBERS OF THE STAFF

JERE B. NASH
President

Mr. Jere Boyle Nash, planter and manager of Delta Implement Company, was born at Pisgah, Kentucky, near Lexington, on January 10, 1900, son of John Tyler Nash and Mary Gay Nash. Attended Rose Hill Academy, Versailles, Kentucky. On December 21, 1924, married Wilda Evans Heard at West Point, Mississippi, and from this union there are two children, Jere Boyle Nash, Jr., and Mary Virginia Nash.

Mr. Nash is at present Vice-President of Planters Equipment Company, Cleveland, Mississippi; Secretary and Director, Delta Implements, Inc. (a Tennessee Corp.); President of Delta Oil Company; President of Wayside Gin Co.; Director of Hampton Gin Co.; Vice-President and Director Delta Implement Co., Greenville; Vice-President of Delta Implement Co., of Yazoo City, Rolling Fork and Indianola; Past President (1941-1942) Washington County Chamber of Commerce; member of Board of Directors of Washington County Red Cross since 1936; Chairman of Board of Deacons of Presbyterian Church; member of Washington County Ration Board.

Mr. Nash owned and operated plantations at West Point, Mississippi, from 1917 to 1923; representative of International Harvester Company, in Mississippi Delta, 1924; became member of the Home Hardware Company, Rolling Fork, Mississippi, in fall of 1924; Home Hardware Company purchased a business in Greenville and then merged and formed the Delta Implement Company, making his home at Greenville in early 1926; then forming the stores in Yazoo City, Indianola, Rolling Fork and Leland. In 1933 purchased and formed the Planters Equipment Company, Cleveland, Mississippi; in 1934 purchased and formed the Delta Implements, Inc., Blytheville, Arkansas; in 1930 operated plantations around Greenville; in 1932, 1933, 1934 purchased 7,000 acres in Sharkey County comprising five cotton plantations operating them in a company partnership. All of the firms and businesses have continued operations since formed.

Mr. Nash is director of Greenville Rotary Club since 1940; Vice President of Rotary Club since 1942 and President of Rotary Club, 1943.

Dedication

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The contents of this report represent the work and effort of many people. This work and effort, the accomplishments of Delta Council during the past presidential year, were inspired and directed by the leadership of our distinguished President, Jere B. Nash. His careful analysis of all problems and suggestions submitted to Delta Council has enabled the organization to devote its time only to projects of merit and worth. Mr. Nash has given to each phase of Delta Council work equal attention that the organization might carry on a balanced economic and social program. President Nash has given unstintingly of his personal time and energy as head of Delta Council and this brief resume of the organization's activities during his term of office is hereby respectfully dedicated to President Jere Boyle Nash.

Committee Chairmen

GEORGE B. WALKER
Chairman Advisory
Research Committee.

HUGH L. GARY
Chairman Agricultural
Committee

F. L. GERDES
Chairman Bale Tag
Association Committee

S. H. KYLE
Chairman Educational
Policy Committee

W. M. GARRARD
Chairman Cotton
Improvement Committee

E. T. WOOLFOLK, SR.
Chairman Executive
Committee

FRANK R. McGEOY, Jr.
Chairman Finance
Committee

COLONEL
ALEXANDER FITZ HUGH
Chairman
Flood Control Committee

HENRY T. CROSBY
Chairman Forestry
Committee

DR. L. B. AUSTIN
Chairman Health
Committee

F. C. WAGNER
Chairman Labor
Committee

JAMES HAND, JR.
Chairman Legislative
Committee

C. E. HUMPHRIES
Chairman Livestock
Committee

W. T. WYNN
Chairman National
Affairs Committee

WALTER SILLERS
Chairman Taxation
Committee

W. C. NEILL
Chairman Soil Conser-
vation Committee

W. K. ANDERSON
Chairman Traffic
and Industrial Committee

COMMITTEE REPORTS

(Presented in Alphabetical Order)

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ADVISORY RESEARCH

(George B. Walker, Stoneville, Miss., Chairman; D. L. Edson, Clarksdale; Early Ewing, Scott; John Garmon, Clarksdale; W. M. Garrard, Jr., Indianola; Hugh L. Gary, Greenwood; James Hand, Jr., Rolling Fork; Clint Henderson, Vance; R. N. Hopson, Clarksdale; B. F. Harbert, Robinsonville; Roy Kuykendall, Heathman; George Perry, Maud; J. T. Thomas, Cruger; W. M. Yandell, Vance.)

The Advisory Research Committee has kept Delta farmers, cotton breeders, mill representatives and farm machinery manufacturers in constant touch with one another this entire past year. In lieu of a spinner-breeder conference this past fall, barred because of travel and crop conditions, representatives of the group attended The Textile Club Meeting in Boston on April 7, 1945; the Cotton Research Congress, Dallas, July 12-13; and the annual meeting of Cotton Textile Institute, November 28-29. A tour of northeastern Arkansas and southeast Missouri was made August 28-31 to gather information on one-variety cotton production. Numerous talks have been made to civic and farm groups throughout the Delta, State, and South on the mechanization of cotton and other crops to aid in the dissemination of information developed by the research work at Delta Branch Experiment Station.

Personnel of the Committee continue to advise with the staff of the Stoneville station, suggesting and counseling on needed work to be done. This activity now also embraces the U.S. Cotton Ginning Laboratory, Cotton Fiber Testing Laboratory, and Cottonseed Analysis Laboratory. Again this year the Committee sponsored a joint meeting of farm machinery manufacturers, Delta Station representatives, and farmers of the area actively engaged in mechanized farming. The Committee will extend its machinery meetings to include a series of cotton gin manufacturers-ginners conferences and another spinner-breeder conference will be held the first week in September at Hartsville, South Carolina.

Through the efforts of a special sub-committee of this group, additional funds and equipment were secured from a group of cotton producers and an implement company for Delta Experiment Station. This has enabled the agency to expand its agronomic work on mechanized cotton and investigate more thoroughly the effect of picking agents on spindle operation in the mechanical cotton picker.

By virtue of the close cooperative work at Stoneville, the Advisory Research Committee last year was able to present valuable data to cotton farmers and cottonseed-crushers on the effect of location and variety on oil, ammonia, and free fatty acid content, as well as per-acre dollar return.

The work of this Committee has developed in both cotton producer and spinner groups a great consciousness of the importance of variety and the need for identification. Cotton spinners are beginning to realize that the characteristics of cotton they need for certain end uses are closely related to variety; they want to know where and when the cotton they buy is grown and ginned. They also want to know its variety. This means for the cotton grower, greater acreages in fewer varieties, and use of the identification tag. Cotton producers are also learning that oil content, by variety, of cottonseed has a pronounced effect on per acre income. Manufacturers of farm machinery, realizing the potential market Southern agriculture represents, are becoming acquainted with the equipment needs of farmers and soon ginners will be brought into the picture also.

No agricultural area of the nation is undergoing such a revolution as the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta; nowhere in the South is so much being done on the mechanization, processing, and marketing problems of cotton. The Advisory Research Committee is making its work felt throughout the cotton industry.

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AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE

(Hugh L. Gary, Greenwood, Chairman; Dr. J. E. Adams, Stoneville; C. H. Cocke, Jr., Lyon; H. D. Crenshaw, Crenshaw; W. J. Godbold, Doddsville; James Hand, Jr., Rolling Fork; Jack Johnson, Greenwood; R. W. Jones, Lula; W. C. Neill, North Carrollton; C. P. Owen, Tunica; M. T. Reed, Belzoni; J. T. Thomas, Cruger; Irby Turner, Belzoni; F. C. Wagner, Dunleith; George B. Walker, Stoneville; C. S. Whittington, Greenwood; T. Y. Williford, Cleveland.)

Early last summer this committee renewed its investigation of the possibility of producing ramie in the Delta. In January the new decorticating machine recently developed was checked for the Agricultural Committee by engineers of the U. S. Ginning Laboratory. No recommendations have been made.

The Agricultural Committee assisted in publicizing National Farm Safety Week by direct mail, radio and newspaper publicity.

Extension Service made a Delta-wide survey at the request of Chairman Gary to determine number of farm trailer tires needed for transport of 1945 cotton crop to gins. This survey, numerous statements of need and telegrams of urgency were submitted to State, Regional and National officials of the Office of Price Administration. A quota for farm trailer tires separate from that of passenger

tires was requested and to help alleviate the critical shortage, Delta Council Agricultural Committee also asked that obsolete, out-sized tires be made available without certificates to farmers who had built their own trailer units. Tire manufacturers also were contacted and their cooperation sought in shipping to the Delta as many trailer tires as possible. The Committee's work was responsible for considered action on the Delta's needs by all groups contacted.

War Production Board has been repeatedly asked to speed conversion of manufacturing concerns formerly making war machines to production of farm equipment. At the same time the Agricultural Committee has asked that larger allocations of steel be given these concerns and that release of farm machinery be expedited in every way possible. Continued action by this Committee includes the immediate construction of a cotton picker manufacturing establishment in the South. Every assistance is being given all equipment makers as the need for farm machinery continues to grow.

At the instance of this Committee, Nitrogen Unit of Fertilizer Distribution Division, U.S.D.A., lifted restrictions on aero-defoliant in mid-August. This gave Delta farmers ample quantities of material for defoliating a very rank crop, seriously threatened by boll rot. Prior to revoking restrictions on all nitrogen orders September 30, 900 tons of defoliant Cyanamid were shipped to the Delta from Niagara Falls.

The Agricultural Committee participated in the two-day Extension Forestry meeting on invitation of D. L. Edson, District Agent, and has done considerable work in publicizing the cause of forestry as an important part of a diversified agricultural program. This Committee also cooperated with the Labor Committee in establishing a ceiling price on cotton picking. The work done on this one program alone, by members of the Committee, is deserving of highest praise.

Mr. Gary was a co-signer with President Nash and Committee Chairmen Woolfolk, Wagner and Hand of the statement to President Truman on wage policy. Text of the telegram is as follows:

> "Delta Council believes in the highest standard of living possible for all working people and an equitable distribution of it. It believes that all people are workers, unless they are voluntarily idle, and are entitled to share in the national income in proportion to their productivity whether affiliated with unions or not. It believes that venture capital is entitled to a fair return on its investment averaging good years and bad. It believes that the profits of industry in excess of fair wages to its workers and a fair return on invested capital should go to the consuming public in reduced prices or increased quality. It deplores strikes and threats of them which affect the public welfare by the highest paid groups of workers. It urges that strong policy in the public interest be established by the National Government before unjustified strikes create discord and vitally retard the return to normal prosperity. It thinks your statement on prices and wages should vigorously denounce the efforts of any group, regardless of power or prestige, to jeopardize the public welfare. It believes that the people need an aggressive champion."

The Agricultural Committee secured Board of Directors' approval of the veterans training program being conducted by the Vocational Education Department of Leland High School. It is hoped that all suitably staffed schools will soon offer this program for the training of plantation managers and shop workmen. Representatives of this group also sat with agricultural leaders from the entire state to plan the 1946 crop and livestock production goals for Mississippi. Most recent activity of this group has been that of publicizing the cotton picking ceiling hearings.

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BALE TAG ASSOCIATION

(F. L. Gerdes, Chairman; Selby Downer, Director; Miss M. M. Finch, Sales Manager, all of Stoneville.)

Delta Council Bale Identification Association last year tagged 630,236 bales of Yazoo-Mississippi Delta cotton by three hundred and fourteen gins. This represents an increase of 34,985 tags and 13 additional cooperators. Bolivar County was the largest cooperator and all but three Delta counties were in the program. These were the hill counties of Panola, Tate, and Warren. Twenty-five new members came into the Association last year. Imprinting of tags is done by the Clarksdale Printing Company and a special note of tribute is due this firm as Delta Council office received not one comment on error in imprinting or delivery last year.

Variety identification and lint certification are two programs receiving considerable attention from Delta cotton producers. Plans are already being made that the trade-marked bale and gin tag of Delta Council may fit into this realm of cotton identification. The bale tag program of Delta Council received high editorial commendation from THE COTTON DIGEST and producers of western irrigated cotton are planning a similar project.

Commenting on the program, THE COTTON DIGEST, September 22, 1945, stated:

> "We have always believed that the bale identification program launched several years ago by the Delta Council of Mississippi was a laudable move. A mill receiving a bale of cotton bearing the Bale Identification Association's copyrighted tag knows what it is getting. By such identification, the old precept of the market place—let the buyer beware—becomes obsolete. Representations as to place and year of growth, variety and name of the ginner, printed on the identifi-

cation tag, can be accepted as authentic. This spells protection for the mill against possible misrepresentation. Further, it helps to preserve the reputation which a particular area has built up for staple of specific characteristics. It is a protection also to the modern, progressive farmer who is cooperating in a one-variety program with a view to improving the quality of the lint he produces and thereby raising the level of his income.

"Mississippi Delta farmers and ginners, under the alert and progressive sponsorship of the Delta Council, are taking the lead in the matter of bale identification. Delta Council is proclaiming their progress far and wide. More power to them.

"We believe that the cotton industry in the Southwest might do well to follow the example set by the Delta Council and to begin planning the inauguration of a similar program in this territory. Cotton of southwestern growth has its distinctive characteristics—desirable qualities which are not possessed by staple produced in other cotton-growing regions. In fact, western cotton may possibly have more to gain from the entrance of variety as an important factor controlling the value of cotton than lint grown in some other sections of the belt. Spinning tests made in government laboratories on varieties produced in the Southwest have tended to enhance the prestige of this cotton, which was previously believed to be of lesser virtue simply because of the shorter length of the staple and the coarser fiber when compared with cotton from some other parts of the belt.

"We are not pleading the cause of Texas and Oklahoma staple as against cotton from other areas. We merely wish to point out that variety appears to be gaining recognition, however belated, as an important factor in determining the spinning value of cotton, and that the Southwest must not lag behind the rest of the belt in taking advantage of this situation."

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COTTON IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

(W. M. Garrard, Chairman, Greenwood; Dr. J. E. Adams, Stoneville; D. L. Edson, Greenwood; Early Ewing, Scott; Hugh L. Gary, Greenwood; F. L. Gerdes, Stoneville; James Hand, Jr., Rolling Fork; B. F. Harbert, Robinsonville; R. N. Hopson, Clarksdale; Roy Kuykendall, Heathman; Dr. J. W. Neely, Stoneville; Irby Turner, Belzoni; George B. Walker, Stoneville.)

"Our Committee has not been too active this year for a number of reasons, of which everyone is aware. We did, however, cooperate in a large meeting of State and County Agents in Greenwood, when the matter of One Variety planting was under discussion. We added our approval to promoting One Variety production.

"Of course there are difficulties to be overcome in this connection. Wherever One Variety production is undertaken, there must be no question as to the purity of the seed. Extreme care must be used in selecting seed that are absolutely pure, in order to avoid cotton of a different variety infiltrating the pure seed. It will be almost impossible to keep One Variety cotton from being contaminated, unless One Variety gins are established.

"As yet, little progress has been made in selling mills on the One Variety idea. All experimental tests have shown definitely that cotton of the same variety from pure seed, grown in the same area, will spin uniformly and give uniform results, even though there is some small difference in the length of staple of different bales.

"The Staple Cotton Cooperative Association has had some limited experience, but probably more than anyone else, in selling cotton grown from One Variety of seed. In every single instance where sales were made of such cotton, on the basis of the cotton being guaranteed as a specific variety, the mills making such purchases have, on the basis of experimental results obtained, in the final analysis still required staple specification. When any bales were not of the length specified, the cotton was either rejected or a claim submitted. It is, therefore, evident that much more experience by mills in the use of One Variety cotton is necessary before cotton from the Delta can be sold solely on a One Variety guarantee.

"Your Committee also desires to call the attention of the Delta Council to the fact that in our opinion the work at the Delta Branch Experiment Station and the work of the seed breeders can do far more toward improving the quality of cotton than can your Committee. In our opinion, the improvement of quality is a function of the Experiment Station and the seed breeders. We consider the function of the Committee to be one of an advisory nature. In such a capacity the Committee may be of value, but we see little opportunity for the Committee to be of direct benefit in developing better quality cotton."

W. M. GARRARD, Chairman.
Greenwood, Mississippi
February 18, 1946.

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EDUCATIONAL POLICY COMMITTEE

(S. H. Kyle, Roundaway, Chairman; A. L. Andrews, Leland, H. B. Heidelberg, Clarksdale; L. V. Henson, Marks; R. N. Hopson, Clarksdale; W. B. Horton, Moorhead; W. M. Kethley, Cleveland; W. T. McKinney, Anguilla; Forrest W. Murphy, Greenville; J. G. Prichard, Sr., Inverness; A. H. Ramsey, Cleveland; Walter Sillers, Rosedale; Edmund Taylor, Greenville; F. C. Willcoxon, Vicks-

burg; P. F. Williams, Clarksdale; Fred Young, Merigold. Advisers: P. H. Easom, Dept. of Education, Jackson; W. G. Eckles, Dept. of Education, Jackson.)

Presidents and faculty members of the University of Mississippi, Delta State Teachers College, and Mississippi State College, met with the Board of Directors on April 19 and presented to that group the post-war programs of the respective schools and at the same time outlined the needs for the various institutions to meet their needs and qualify for their new programs.

A subcommittee to the Delta Council Educational Policy Committee, consisting of W. E. Bufkin, S. H. Kyle, J. H. Pettey, Walter Sillers, W. T. Wynn, Fred Young, and P. F. Williams, was appointed by order of the Board of Directors at its meeting in Cleveland on June 5, 1945, to study Senate Bill 619, which has for its purpose the enlargement of vocational education in Mississippi; and to make recommendations regarding Negro education in Mississippi. The special subcommittee met Thursday, June 14, 1945, and the Educational Policy Committee met Friday, June 15. The Delta Council Educational Policy Committee recommended as follows on each of the two problems:

A. That the Delta Council endorse the principles of Senate Bill 619 for the enlargement of vocational education in the State, but that the bill be so amended as to permit State control of the grant of Federal funds and that there be no interference or dictation to the State Department of Education by the Federal government.

B. The following recommendations regarding Negro education be endorsed by the Delta Council and be transmitted to the Kyle Legislative Committee, which is now studying the public school system with the idea of making recommendations to the Legislature at its meeting in January, 1946:

1. That better school buildings and equipment be furnished to Negroes of the State, this to be effected by legislation permitting counties to levy up to a two-mill levy and a biennial appropriation by the Legislature of two million dollars to match funds secured by the two-mill tax.
2. That the multiple adoption of textbooks be recommended.
3. That increased salaries be paid to better trained Negro teachers.
4. That a junior college be established in the Delta for training Negro teachers, this college to be established and maintained by State appropriation.
5. That the county superintendents of schools in the Delta counties be urged to have county surveys made of their respective Negro school systems, with the idea of relocating schools where necessary and consolidating schools where necessary and to establish a county vocational high school, if necessary.
6. That the Delta Council urge the Board of Trustees of Higher Institutions of Learning to appoint a liaison man to supervise the training and instruction in Negro institutions of higher learning.

The Board was polled by mail on their attitude toward these suggestions. The following questions were asked, with this polled vote.

A. The principles of enlargement of vocational education in Mississippi, as provided by Senate Bill 619, provided the funds are an outright grant to the State Department of Education and no interference from or dictation to by the Federal government?

YES	41
NO	4

B-1. Do you favor better school buildings and equipment for Negroes, to be paid for jointly by the State and the county?

YES	45
NO	0

B-2. Multiple adoption of textbooks?

YES	41
NO	0
No ans.	4

B-3. Increased salaries for better trained Negro teachers?

YES	43
NO	1
No ans.	1

B-4. The establishment by the State and maintenance by the State of a junior college in the Delta for the training of Negro school teachers?

YES	42
NO	2
No ans.	1

B-5. That a study be made in each Delta county of the Negro school problem, looking to the relocation and consolidation of its rural schools?

YES	43
NO	1
No ans.	1

B-6. A vocational high school for Negroes in your county?

YES	44
NO	0
No ans.	1

B-7. Urging the Board of Trustees for Higher Institutions of Learning in Mississippi that it employ a man to supervise the training and instruction in Negro institutions of higher learning?

YES	43
NO	0
No ans.	2

P. F. Williams, Clarksdale, was appointed Delta Council representative to appear before the Kyle Legislative Education Committee in Jackson on June 26, by S. H. Kyle, Chairman, Delta Council Educational Policy Committee, and presented the above program as developed by Committee discussion.

The Joint Legislative Education Committee recommended in their published report the following points on Negro education:

"1. That a county-wide program for the construction of better school houses for the negro schools be adopted in each of the 82 counties; and that as an aid in the accomplishment of this objective, Section 6518 of the Mississippi Code of 1942 be amended so as to authorize the board of supervisors of each county, in its discretion, to levy a tax, not to exceed two mills on the dollar, upon all of the taxable property of the county for the purpose of building and repairing school houses, and that the state provide grants in aid of such program.

"2. That the county superintendent of education, with the approval of the county school board, be authorized to expend each year a limited amount of funds derived from the above mentioned tax levy for the purchase of equipment for the Negro schools of the county.

"3. That at least one high school for negro students be maintained in each county, in which high school facilities can be made available to qualified high school students, and in which courses in vocational education shall be offered; and that in any county in which there is located a separate school district high school for negroes the county superintendent shall be authorized to pay tuition for negro students who live outside the separate school district to enable them to attend such separate school district high school.

"4. That the State Board for Vocational Education cooperate with the local authorities in providing vocational training for negro high school students in each county.

"5. That in those counties in which the negro population is not sufficient to justify the establishment of a four-year high school department in any school for negroes, suitable arrangements be made to enable qualified high school students to attend a negro high school in an adjoining county without the payment of tuition.

"6. That special efforts be made by the county superintendents of education to secure the services of better qualified teachers in the negro schools of the county; and that in cases where better qualified teachers are employed, better salaries be paid to the teachers.

"7. That the practice of employing teachers who have had less than a four-year high school education be discontinued as rapidly as circumstances will permit; and that the county superintendents encourage all teachers who have not received the equivalent of a high school education to continue their studies in summer schools, so that they may improve their qualifications and be paid better salaries.

"8. That a sufficient number of teachers be employed in the negro schools to prevent the overcrowded condition which now exists in many of the schools.

"9. That the Legislature and the Board of Trustees of Institutions of Higher Learning take such action as may be necessary to enlarge the facilities for teacher training at Jackson College and at Alcorn A. & M. College, so that a better supply of qualified teachers for the negro schools may be made available for the negro schools throughout the state.

"10. That the Legislature provide for the establishment of a Negro Junior College in the Delta for the training of negro teachers, and to provide vocational training for qualified negro students in that thickly populated area."

Chairman Kyle reported on the legislative action of the 1946 Mississippi Legislature regarding the Council's educational program as follows:

"In the brief space that can be allotted to our committee I want to review the educational program planned and recommended for the 1946 legislative session. Items 2, 3, and 5 below were submitted to the Legislative Recess Committee on Education. Preliminary to making these recommendations this committee of the Legislature had called on your Delta Council Committee to recommend a practical program affecting negro schools. After a number of meetings our principal objectives resolved themselves into the following recommendations:

"1. Support for our institutions of higher learning more in line with the amounts appropriated to institutions of higher learning in other states.

"2. A matching fund of State money to encourage the building of negro school buildings where needed throughout the State.

"3. A junior negro teachers college to be located in the Delta area to train teachers for negro schools of the Delta.

"4. A program of adequate vocational training for returned veterans.

"5. A salary schedule which would permit teachers to be paid according to training and successful experience.

"At the time of writing this report, which is about two weeks before the close of the 1946 session, we have seen four out of five of our recommendations either enacted into law or so far along that their success seems assured.

"The recommendation of Delta Council is not responsible for these results, but the support of Delta Council has added much to making their achievement a reality.

"Item 1, support for our institutions of higher learning, has been voted more liberally by the 1946 Legislature than the most optimistic hoped for. In 1944-46 the total appropriation was $1,783,764. For 1946-1948 it will be $3,324,993. This amount will enable our universities and colleges to pay salaries equal to the average of the Southern states.

"Item 2, a matching fund of one to two million dollars to help build much needed negro school buildings throughout the State. The Legislature has voted a fund of $3,000,000 which is to be used to match the building of negro or white school houses and also to be used to match needed funds to encourage the consolidation of weak high schools.

"Item 3, a junior college in the Delta for training negro teachers. The enabling act for this college has passed the House and its final passage as well as a $300,000 appropriation therefor seems assured.

"Item 4, a program of adequate vocational training for returned veterans. A fund of two million dollars has been voted, one million to be used for adequate housing and the other for a revolving fund for senior and junior colleges in taking care of veterans. Efforts which seem likely to be successful are being made to secure the fine facilities at the Prairie Ordnance Plant near Aberdeen for a vocational training school for veterans. It is also planned to secure a suitable plant for vocational training for negro veterans.

"Item 5, a salary schedule which would permit teachers, white or negro, to be paid according to training and successful experience does not seem likely to receive any definite legislative support at this session. The state superintendent, however, already has authority to base part of the State funds on such a salary schedule."

Respectfully submitted,
S. H. KYLE, Chairman,
Educational Policy Committee.

In July of last year all Delta county Superintendents of Education were contacted by the Committee and urged to have made county surveys to the end of semiconsolidation and consequent reduction in number of rural school houses and the improvement of those remaining. A recommendation to the Special Committee that was appointed by the Legislature to study institutions of higher learning in Mississippi that community leadership training be emphasized in the education of Negro preachers was embodied in the report of that group. Mississippi Association of Teachers in Colored Schools officials expressed that organization's appreciation for Delta Council recommendations for the improvement of Negro schools, establishment of a Junior College for the Delta, and an increase in salary for Negro teachers. On several different occasions Committee representatives have met with the Board of Trustees for Institutions of Higher Learning and for their suggestions and recommendations have received special letters of commendation from the Board Chairman.

A Special Committee headed by General Galla Paxton was named to study the matter of Military Training and National Defense. Members of that Committee were: S. H. Kyle, Clarksdale; W. M. Kethley, Cleveland; Howard Stovall, Stovall; J. G. Prichard, Sr., Inverness; H. B. Heidelberg, Clarksdale; Col. Alexander Fitz Hugh, Vicksburg; LeRoy Percy, Greenville. Report of that Committee was made in resolution form:

"WHEREAS, the Delta Council is intensely interested in the National Defense and security of our country, and

"WHEREAS, it is conscious of the fact that our country entered both World War I and World War II in a poor state of preparedness resulting in the unnecessary loss of thousands of lives and large amounts of property and equipment, and

"WHEREAS, it believes that this poor state of preparedness has been due to pacifism, a false sense of security, and failure of our nation to adequately prepare for war, and

"WHEREAS, it is confident that it is essential that the United States of America prepare and retain an adequate military strength, in order to assist in the maintenance of world peace, to maintain its dignity and respect among the nations of the world, and to prevent war or effectively and promptly defend its borders in a national emergency, Now therefore,

"BE IT RESOLVED that the Delta Council approve and endorse the following policy in respect to National Security, That,

"I. The Armed Forces of the United States of America be unified. The Council believes that these Forces should be commanded and administered by a single Department of the Federal Government, the head of which shall be a civilian, directly responsible to the President of the United States, in order to achieve the maximum amount of efficiency and economy. Delta Council recommends that these forces be organized on a co-equal status for the Army, Navy and Air Forces.

"II. The Armed Forces be maintained in such strength as to afford immediate employment of a portion of these forces and capable of expanding the remainder and the Reserve units to such strength as the situation demands; that these forces consist of:

"A. A strong Air Force, trained and equipped for immediate employment.

"B. A moderate sized Army ground force equipped and trained of such suitable strength that,

"1. A portion may be immediately employed. And that

"2. The remainder assist in the mobilization and activation of the reserve units.

"C. A moderate sized two-ocean Navy, equipped and trained for immediate employment in either or both ocean areas. This Force to include the Marine Corps of such size as to be capable of conducting minor landing operations.

"D. A Reserve Force consisting of the National Guard and Organized Army, Air and Naval Units equipped and trained as to be available for employment from M-Day to M plus 180.

"III. All physically fit males between the ages of 18 and 25 receive compulsory military training for the equivalent of one year. The Council feels that one year of continuous military training will (a) seriously disrupt the educational and non-military training of our youth, and (b) present the problem of perennial re-

lease of men from organizational training which is necessary for troops to be employed early in an emergency. The Council recommends that a modified form of training along the following lines be instituted:

"A. That immediately following the coming of age of 18 years, each able-bodied male be required to attend a summer camp for a period of 14 weeks. That in this period, a 13-week basic training course be conducted by personnel of the Regular Army and Officers Reserve Corps. That upon completion of this training course, each man automatically becomes a member of the Enlisted Reserve Corps, and will be required to complete his training by a minimum of:

"1. Three years service in the National Guard of the United States.

"2. Three years service in a Federally recognized ROTC at a School, College or University.

"3. Three years service in home station training with an Organized Reserve Army, Air or Naval unit established under the Federal Government. Attendance at summer field training in each of these components should be mandatory.

"Upon completion of this period of training, men are to be honorably discharged from the Enlisted Reserve Corps, and are to be required for further service under the Selective Service Act only. The Council, recognizing the extreme value of field training, urges that sufficient appropriation be made to permit full and complete organizational training in these periods.

"IV. That the Armed Forces continue vigorously scientific research with a view of making available to the Armed Forces the most modern of weapons, ammunition and equipment."

The Educational Policy Committee on November 1 officially approved "The Report of the Presidents Council, Institutions of Higher Learning for Mississippi," which asked for increased appropriations for Institutions of higher learning. The 1946 Legislature did grant an enlarged appropriation though not the entire amount requested.

The following Special Committee on College Consolidation presented its report to Delta Council and Board of Directors of Ole Miss Alumni Association: W. T. Wynn, Chairman, Greenville; S. H. Kyle, Roundaway; George B. Walker, Stoneville; James Hand, Jr., Rolling Fork; J. T. Thomas, Cruger; Mrs. P. T. Lagrone, Greenville; James McClure, Sardis; James McGraw, Yazoo City.

Special Report

"Delta Council Board of Directors on November 20, 1945, authorized a special committee to study the educational and economic advisability of consolidating Mississippi State College, University of Mississippi, and Mississippi State College for Women, and to report its findings to the 1946 Legislature. The recommendations of this Committee are herewith respectfully submitted.

"The O'Shea report on public education in Mississippi, made in 1926, recommended a modified program of education for the state that would have as its major purpose the training of 'the youth of the State to become efficient in the performance of tasks that most need to be accomplished in Mississippi.'

"The Peabody survey in 1933 recommended that all institutions of higher learning in Mississippi be on the undergraduate level with the exception of one. The Gibson report of 1945 terms the 'Cause and Effects of Duplication' of McNeely's 1940 study of 'Duplication of State Higher Education' as 'suggestive if not entirely descriptive of conditions in Mississippi.' Since 1912, educational laymen of Mississippi have been attempting in some way to coordinate and unify higher education in this State. To date, nothing has been done, despite the reiteration of this recommendation in every survey made.

"The most recent study, made by Joseph E. Gibson, states that 'Mississippi has more higher educational institutions in proportion to population, and requires a greater effort in relation to its ability to pay for education, than do other Southern States.' Five of the State's senior white colleges and two colored are State supported. In addition, twelve junior colleges participate in state appropriations. The Gibson report, which once more recommends a unified program of higher education for Mississippi, proposes the consolidation of the University, State College, and State College for Women on a new campus in Jackson. In this, we heartily concur.

"The report clearly states that Mississippi is attempting to support institutions of higher education far beyond its means. The Gibson report of 402 pages is another futile attempt to rectify a situation that can only be remedied by adoption of the above proposal of consolidation, pages 46-48 of the Mississippi Study. We unhesitatingly adopt this part of the report.

"It is our request that the 1946 Mississippi State Legislature adopt a resolution establishing a policy of consolidation at some future date, even should it be ten years from now. It is never too late to rectify a mistake; one which this State obviously made some fifty years ago. If Federal funds are available for buildings (which they will be if HR 4499 passes Congress) and the total set-up costs twenty-five or thirty million dollars (a purely hypothetical figure), the Government might contribute fifteen or some other part of this amount. The State owns land in Jackson ideally situated for a college: the old asylum site. Jackson and Hinds County could also make a substantial contribution to such an

lease of men from organizational training which is necessary for troops to be employed early in an emergency. The Council recommends that a modified form of training along the following lines be instituted:

"A. That immediately following the coming of age of 18 years, each able-bodied male be required to attend a summer camp for a period of 14 weeks. That in this period, a 13-week basic training course be conducted by personnel of the Regular Army and Officers Reserve Corps. That upon completion of this training course, each man automatically becomes a member of the Enlisted Reserve Corps, and will be required to complete his training by a minimum of:

"1. Three years service in the National Guard of the United States.

"2. Three years service in a Federally recognized ROTC at a School, College or University.

"3. Three years service in home station training with an Organized Reserve Army, Air or Naval unit established under the Federal Government. Attendance at summer field training in each of these components should be mandatory.

"Upon completion of this period of training, men are to be honorably discharged from the Enlisted Reserve Corps, and are to be required for further service under the Selective Service Act only. The Council, recognizing the extreme value of field training, urges that sufficient appropriation be made to permit full and complete organizational training in these periods.

"IV. That the Armed Forces continue vigorously scientific research with a view of making available to the Armed Forces the most modern of weapons, ammunition and equipment."

The Educational Policy Committee on November 1 officially approved "The Report of the Presidents Council, Institutions of Higher Learning for Mississippi," which asked for increased appropriations for Institutions of higher learning. The 1946 Legislature did grant an enlarged appropriation though not the entire amount requested.

The following Special Committee on College Consolidation presented its report to Delta Council and Board of Directors of Ole Miss Alumni Association: W. T. Wynn, Chairman, Greenville; S. H. Kyle, Roundaway; George B. Walker, Stoneville; James Hand, Jr., Rolling Fork; J. T. Thomas, Cruger; Mrs. P. T. Lagrone, Greenville; James McClure, Sardis; James McGraw, Yazoo City.

Special Report

"Delta Council Board of Directors on November 20, 1945, authorized a special committee to study the educational and economic advisability of consolidating Mississippi State College, University of Mississippi, and Mississippi State College for Women, and to report its findings to the 1946 Legislature. The recommendations of this Committee are herewith respectfully submitted.

"The O'Shea report on public education in Mississippi, made in 1926, recommended a modified program of education for the state that would have as its major purpose the training of 'the youth of the State to become efficient in the performance of tasks that most need to be accomplished in Mississippi.'

"The Peabody survey in 1933 recommended that all institutions of higher learning in Mississippi be on the undergraduate level with the exception of one. The Gibson report of 1945 terms the 'Cause and Effects of Duplication' of McNeely's 1940 study of 'Duplication of State Higher Education' as 'suggestive if not entirely descriptive of conditions in Mississippi.' Since 1912, educational laymen of Mississippi have been attempting in some way to coordinate and unify higher education in this State. To date, nothing has been done, despite the reiteration of this recommendation in every survey made.

"The most recent study, made by Joseph E. Gibson, states that 'Mississippi has more higher educational institutions in proportion to population, and requires a greater effort in relation to its ability to pay for education, than do other Southern States.' Five of the State's senior white colleges and two colored are State supported. In addition, twelve junior colleges participate in state appropriations. The Gibson report, which once more recommends a unified program of higher education for Mississippi, proposes the consolidation of the University, State College, and State College for Women on a new campus in Jackson. In this, we heartily concur.

"The report clearly states that Mississippi is attempting to support institutions of higher education far beyond its means. The Gibson report of 402 pages is another futile attempt to rectify a situation that can only be remedied by adoption of the above proposal of consolidation, pages 46-48 of the Mississippi Study. We unhesitatingly adopt this part of the report.

"It is our request that the 1946 Mississippi State Legislature adopt a resolution establishing a policy of consolidation at some future date, even should it be ten years from now. It is never too late to rectify a mistake; one which this State obviously made some fifty years ago. If Federal funds are available for buildings (which they will be if HR 4499 passes Congress) and the total set-up costs twenty-five or thirty million dollars (a purely hypothetical figure), the Government might contribute fifteen or some other part of this amount. The State owns land in Jackson ideally situated for a college: the old asylum site. Jackson and Hinds County could also make a substantial contribution to such an

institution. Even if this consolidation did cost the State fifteen million dollars, disposition of the three existing plants and lowered cost of operating one large university would probably be less than the total cost of operating the three with all their duplications.

"Eradication of duplication in operating costs will not be the only saving. Consolidation of institutions will enable one state university to employ one dean or instructor of superior quality at a lower cost than the present practice of employing three. A low salary scale for Mississippi teachers is one of the major problems now facing the State. Mississippi is losing or will lose its best instructors for this very reason and cannot, at present rate of payment, attract equally or better qualified people. Consolidation of instruction would mean better teachers at lowered total cost.

"During the period 1937-45, total college enrollment was at its highest during 1939-40. Yet the total number of students enrolled was only 5028. It appears to us that this small number of students, attending three different schools, can result in nothing but exorbitant cost of educacation per enrolled student.

"We recommend that a resolution be passed fixing this policy of consolidation and that a committee be appointed consisting of members of the Legislature, outstanding educators, and citizens, to study the problem and make final recommendations within a period of six months.

"Fewer and better schools keynote the college and university programs of the more progressive, literate states and we feel this recommendation to be the only solution to the problems of higher education in Mississippi."

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(E. T. Woolfolk, Sr., Tunica, Chairman; W. K. Anderson, Clarksdale; Oscar Bledsoe, Greenwood; John Brunini, Vicksburg; S. H. Coker, Yazoo City; Herbert Eustis, Cleveland; Col. Alexander Fitz Hugh, Vicksburg; Hugh L. Gary, Greenwood; James Hand, Jr., Rolling Fork; B. F. Harbert, Robinsonville; Oscar Johnston, Scott; S. H. Kyle, Roundaway; Frank R. McGeoy, Jr., Greenwood; C. P. Owen, Tunica; Walter Sillers, Rosedale; M. P. Sturdivant, Glendora; J. T. Thomas, Cruger; H. M. Trice, Indianola; Irby Turner, Belzoni; P. F. Williams, Clarksdale; W. T. Wynn, Greenville.)

The Executive Committee, in addition to participating in the presentation of the statement on wage policy to President Truman, referred to in Agricultural Committee report, also filed with Flood Control Committee Chairman Alexander Fitz Hugh, a telegram to Senators James O. Eastland and Theo G. Bilbo relative to Senate Bill 1120:

"Delta Council urges your support Overton Amendment to S. 1120 that exempts from terms of that bill the civil functions of the Army Corps of Engineers. You are familiar with Delta Council endorsement of Army Engineers, administration of inland waterways, flood control and navigation program. Any action contrary to this set-up directly opposes stand of this organization."

The Executive Committee, together with the Flood Control Committee, also urged the defeat of Senate Bill 555, known as the "Missouri Valley Authority Bill."

On authorization of the Executive Committee, Mr. W. T. Wynn, Mr. Hugh L. Gary and Mr. James Hand, Jr., were named to contact National Cotton Council for an appropriation for special research work at Delta Experiment Station. That organization did not take official action but several men of the Southern area did make this money available. This subcommittee was also responsible for the placement of additional equipment at the Station. The same Committee was authorized to support request of the Forestry Committee for appropriation of State funds to gravel the road within Delta Experimental Forest. House Resolution 4499 that would provide through aid to the States for surveys of the need for public educational plant facilities, for the preparation of drawings and specifications for such facilities, and for their construction or acquisition, was unanimously approved by the Committee in session December 11, 1945. Hon. Dan McGehee, chairman of the House Committee on Education, Washington, D. C., was contacted and asked to favorably report the bill out for vote at earliest possible opportunity. An appropriation of funds up to $1,000 was made by the Executive Committee to the Special Committee on College Consolidation.

Following resolution was passed by the Executive Committee, commending International House, New Orleans:

"WHEREAS, International House, New Orleans, is a non-profit, non-trading membership organization established by the business, civic, and educational interests of the Mississippi Valley to foster closer cultural and trade relations between the Mississippi Valley and the countries of the world; and

"WHEREAS, International House is dedicated to world peace, trade and understanding: and

"WHEREAS, the purposes for which International House was formed are the further development and promotion of trade, travel, and commerce between the people of the Mississippi Valley (that section of the United States situated between the Alleghenies on the east and the Rockies on the west) and the people of other countries of the world, particularly the other American republics. And in the accomplishment of these purposes, International House will:

"Promote the study and investigation of ways, means, and methods by which the people of the

Valley section can better understand and become acquainted with the commercial, educational, musical, cultural, economic, social, and political customs, practices, and history of the people of other friendly nations;

"Promote the mutual education of the people of these countries regarding their manufacturing, transportation, agricultural, mining, and commercial resources and enterprises, and promote their mutual enlightenment regarding the languages, manners, and customs of each other;

"Cooperate with the established agencies, both of a public and private character, in the respective countries in carrying out these objectives and in general assist in all enterprises designed to aid international understanding;

"Provide suitable facilities in the city of New Orleans where the activities of International House may be directed and where representatives of the various educational, civic, cultural, and governmental agencies may be housed; and

"WHEREAS, Delta Council believes that the geographical integrity of the Mississippi Valley, together with transportation unity, by virtue of having three seaports, are going to bring about a commercial and cultural development for the Valley beyond comprehension; and

"WHEREAS, Delta Council believes that much emphasis will have to be placed on foreign trade in the matter of cotton and in expansion of and sites for industrial development;

"BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by Delta Council Executive Committee in session this eleventh day of December, 1945, that the organization, purposes and aims of International House be hereby commended and that Delta Council extend to International House its fullest support and cooperation."

Respectfully submitted,
W. T. WYNN
HUGH L. GARY
JOE RICE DOCKERY

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FINANCE COMMITTEE

(Frank R. McGeoy, Jr., Greenwood, Chairman; Herbert Eustis, Cleveland; H. H. McGowen, Beulah; J. P. McCain, Carrollton; W. K. Anderson, Clarksdale; A. V. Shannon, Lake Cormorant; J. T. Thomas, Cruger; Paul Townsend, Belzoni; Irby Turner, Belzoni; B. J. Tonnar, Grace; W. T. Touchberry, Glen Allan; A. B. Friend, Sardis, Clint Henderson, Vance; P. M. B. Self, Marks; W. T. McKinney, Anguilla; H. M. Trice, Indianola; A. S. Campbell, Webb; Ben Sturdivant, Glendora; J. E. Cahill, Senatobia; C. P. Owen, Tunica; J. W. Garrett, Vicksburg; C. O. Dean, Leland; Frank England, Greenville; Julius Thompson, Percy; P. C. Williams, Yazoo City.)

The Finance Committee of Delta Council, which also serves as the Membership Committee, last year conducted the largest drive in the history of Delta Council. This Committee recommended to the Board of Directors and had approved, increased membership quotas for the counties of Bolivar, Carroll, Tallahatchie, Tunica, Warren and Washington. The suggestion that Grenada County be included in the organization was not acted upon.

Delta Council operated within its budget last year and also year before last. No increase in expenditures for the coming fiscal year has been authorized. Indications as of March 31 are that this Committee will surpass its membership record established last year.

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FLOOD CONTROL

(Col. Alexander Fitz Hugh, Vicksburg, Chairman; J. S. Allen, Greenville; W. K. Anderson, Clarksdale; J. W. Bradford, Itta Bena; John Brunini, Vicksburg; S. H. Coker, Yazoo City; A. B. Friend, Sardis; Hugh L. Gary, Greenwood; James Hand, Jr., Rolling Fork; Herbert Holmes, Yazoo City; T. H. Powers, Cary; M. T. Reed, Belzoni; P. M. B. Self, Marks; M. P. Sturdivant, Glendora; J. A. Thigpen, Shaw; Littleton Upshur, Greenwood; W. T. Wynn, Greenville.)

The last official report of Delta Council Flood Control Committee to Board of Directors was made on November 20, 1945. This report is here produced as it appears in the minutes of that meeting:

"COL. ALEXANDER FITZ HUGH, CHAIRMAN, FLOOD CONTROL COMMITTEE, VICKSBURG: Flood control centers on these three phases: (1) control of flood waters on the main stem of the river; (2) headwater; (3) backwater area in the Lower Yazoo Basin. The Delta is an area, a section, as had been pointed out before, where the people have common problems. It is populated by people of outstanding qualities and characteristics, but more or less those same characteristics that characterize people living in an alluvial section.

"The first statement I ever made publicly in the Delta was about forty-odd years ago, when I went to Clarksdale as representative of the Vicksburg Board of Trade, speaking in behalf of the Brunswick Extension. I said the Delta could not remain half protected and half flooded, if it was to achieve its manifest destiny which it is due to receive from its wonderful resources of soil and water and other life.

"The flood control of the Mississippi, through the able, efficient, devoted services of the Army Engineers and of our Upper and Lower Levee District Engineers, has been largely effectuated. The flood control of the Yazoo-Tallahatchie-Coldwater River system has been begun and is partially completed. The flood control of the backwater areas is still in the blueprint state. Through the zeal, tireless energy, ability, and great influence of Congress-

man Whittington, appropriations from Congress have been made available for these flood control works.

"I feel that, on occasions like this, the Delta should be constantly and insistently reminded that, until the three-phase program is completed, we have left undone the most important thing.

"I am going to ask Mr. Littleton Upshur of Greenwood, secretary of the Yazoo-Tallahatchie, and Coldwater Levee District, to supplement my remarks and to tell you the status of the flood control works in the eastern part of the Delta and the backwater area and what is necessary to be done to effectuate these programs and results.

"HON. LITTLETON UPSHUR, SECRETARY, YAZOO - TALLAHATCHIE - COLDWATER DISTRICT, GREENWOOD: I did not come prepared to talk about flood control on the eastern side of the Delta particularly, although that is a subject that I am hardly ever unprepared to discuss. I have been talking flood control almost forty years. The Colonel has properly stated that the Delta is a homogeneous unit. The Delta is. The Delta is a unit economically. We have common economic problems from the lobby of the Peabody Hotel to Catfish Row in Vicksburg and from Greenwood, out in Will Neill's county of Carroll, across the Delta to Greenville. The Delta is also a geographical unit, and it is a geographical unit surrounded by water, the mighty Mississippi on the west and the Yazoo system on the east.

"Ever since 1844 and even back of that, this Delta section has been engaged in a fight to prevent the encroachment of the waters of the Mississippi over its acres. In all of that 100 years the most important and fundamental thing that has confronted the Delta area has been the protection of its lands from water, regardless of its origin.

"Naturally, with the most potent threat from water being the Mississippi River, the Mississippi River came first in all of our efforts to protect this whole section. Thanks largely to the efforts of Congressman Whittington, when he secured the passage of the flood control act of 1928, we have been able to put the matter of levees on the east side of the Mississippi where it belongs. On the east side of the Delta, the Tallahatchie River, to its confluence with the Little Tallahatchie, is engineeringly the Yazoo River. We have not had, in the upper part of the Delta, a levee break in the systems of levees lying north of the Bolivar County line since 1897. There has not been a flood which affected the east side of the Delta that originated in the upper part of the Delta since 1884. There has not been a flood anywhere along the Yazoo River course, except those floods that are caused by the backwater of the Mississippi that came from levee breaks, since 1927.

"The problem of flood control on the Yazoo River affects many more of us than those who live along its banks and underneath its levees. It is a problem that affects the Delta from almost the Bolivar County line to the hill lines. It is a problem that affects the counties beginning with the eastern part of Tunica, Quitman, Leflore, part of Carroll, Holmes, Humphreys, Yazoo, Sharkey, and Issaquena Counties. We have been working on the east side of the Delta to keep the water from coming in the back door. There are 1,650,000 acres of land affected by the waters of the Yazoo River. I am not going to say anything in the spirit of criticism of this board or that board of this section or that section, but, following the flood of 1935, when we were in despair of ever being able to begin a unified district along the Yazoo River, we effected the organization of the Yazoo-Tallahatchie-Coldwater River Board. While the Federal government makes a distinction between the headwater project and the backwater project, we made no distinction because we regarded the Yazoo System as one, and the man who got wet by the water coming down the river was just as wet as the man who got wet by water coming up the river. And, despite the arbitrary division which the Engineers made between the backwater and headwater areas, at Yazoo City there is an overlapping area which goes up 50 or 60 miles farther. The perfection of the unified legal entity was necessary because the Flood Control Act which Congressman Whittington secured with 72 million dollars for flood control along the Yazoo River system demanded that—with authority to give such assurances and with power to carry out its obligations—they demand the creation of such an entity.

"We sought first to confer this power on the two levee boards. One of the levee boards was rather reluctant to take the matter over, and I can well understand why. There was a legal reason why the levee board shied away from it: That was the question of authority of the levee board to give such assurances as to whether or not the State Constitution intended for the levee boards to do anything other than deal with the front-line levee. That question is still unresolved. But we were getting wet, we could not afford to wait for the unwinding of the courts. Due to the efforts of Hugh Gary, Tol Thomas, Jimmy Hand, Will Neill, and others, we perfected that organization in June, 1944. Issaquena and Sharkey Counties, affected mainly by backwater, came in with that district on the same basis as Leflore, Humphreys, and Carroll, which are affected mainly by the headwater. We made no distinction between the two because we intended to handle the matter on a unified basis. That was handled through the District Court. Procedure of organization is similar to the organization of a drainage district, after which it departs and proceeds just like a levee board district. Following the creation of

the district, we tendered to the War Department of the United States the assurances that the district would furnish what the Government required. The Government requires this: that local interests in the headwater area furnish to the Federal government right of way for levees. The Federal government then undertakes to build those levees and to maintain them. In the backwater area the district has to give to the Federal government the assurances that it will maintain the levees, the Federal government buying the rights of way and building the levees. Those assurances were tendered to the War Department and, after a year's writing back and forth by the attorneys, the Federal government accepted our assurances. Our district has this drawback: We do not have all of the territory that is affected by the floodwaters of the Yazoo System within the district, but the law under which we operate gives to the district created under that law, power to condemn lands for rights of way for levees and for the lateral drainage ditches that might be made necessary. We now have seven counties in the district. We added Warren this past spring.

"Four of the counties that are affected are not in the district. Quitman is not in the district and would not be in the district because flood control has gone on in Quitman County on a local basis. Tallahatchie is not in, but it should be. Sunflower is not, but it should be. Yazoo is not yet in the district. Ultimately, I hope that the necessary counties (rather, the proper counties) will be within the district because those counties will receive the benefits from the flood control along the Yazoo River system and it is just a matter of knowing that the seven counties that are affected will pay for that flood control. Of course, we are not going to pay for it unless protection benefits us.

"The seven counties have experienced sufficient damage that they are ready to go ahead and pay for all the protection, regardless of whether the people in the other counties want to or not. Leflore County alone lost three million dollars last year in oats and about half that this year. The cost is $500,000 for a flood control project. I know it will work because I have seen it work in Quitman County—72 million dollars' expenditure with $500,000 of it by local interest.

"We know what the taxes will bring. We finance a half-billion dollars every ten years. Sixty-eight thousand dollars a year is ample to finance it. We know that it can be done. We know that the project will work. We have created that district and given those assurances in order to secure protection for the east side of the Delta.

"Briefly, the flood control system over there is simple. It embraces four reservoirs, two of which are already constructed. They were constructed on assurances to the Federal government from drainage districts, counties, and individuals, but they only give us partial protection. Vital to the continued flood protection is completion of the Enid and Grenada reservoirs. There is now pending in Congress a deficiency appropriation which will provide for the money to carry out the construction of those two dams. Supplementing those two dams and enabling the Government to operate these dams and free the water so that there will be more room behind the dams to store the water and in order to protect the east Delta from flood, there is designed, as far as Yazoo City, a supplemental system of levees (levees that will block the overflow of the water at bankful state which back up inlets, outlets, and so on). We can have a flood along the Yazoo River when we do not have flood stage in the Yazoo River.

"From Yazoo City down there is a system of levees originally authorized on the levee side of the River, protecting all the lands in Warren, Issaquena, Sharkey, and Yazoo Counties up to that point. We had assurances from General Tyler, some time back, that he was ready to proceed with the construction of the entire program whenever WPB removed limitations. He was not going to proceed with dams, which is, of course, the key to the situation, until he was assured that he could get the rights of way for the levees. Private property owners gave to the Government their word that they would furnish rights of way for levees. Then, when asked for levees, said, "We don't need the levees. We have the dam." In 1945 the dam got full. A flood control dam is a storage dam. General Tyler did not let the water out because it would have flooded the people down below, but rains continued to fall and the water behind the dams spilled over the top and went through the spillway uncontrolled. Until these assurances for levees were certain, General Tyler was not going to build a dam.

"The assurances have been given, with maintenance in the backwater area, and we furnish right of way in the headwater areas. One thing now that is standing in the way of beginning work is the deficiency appropriation in the House to begin the Enid Dam and to buy the rights of way for the Grenada Dam. We have been pushing to get these through.

"That appropriation has to go to the Senate, and we have to push that appropriation through the Senate because, gentlemen, we cannot have any further delay in bringing flood control to the east side of the Delta area. We have the greatest area in the world.

"We do not have any easy time in the Mississippi Legislature about flood control on the east side of the Delta because all people are not in favor of dams. That is the only reason we have not been quite as aggressive in the Legislature for legislation as we might have been.

"I maintain, gentlemen, that, when any section of this Delta area needs protection from

floods or when any section of this area has one problem which may be local in its nature so far as damage is concerned, it merits the support and encouragement of the whole area. That redounds to the benefit of every section within the Delta. I think the appropriation will pass in Washington. I think, probably, when we get the question of the dams absolutely settled, the money appropriated for it, and the work started, we can perhaps go through with taking the bugs out of some of the laws we have. We cannot do it until we get the dams question settled.

"We have a good board, an economical board, a board that will not spend any money that is not justified. We feel proud of what we have done in the organization of our district and until, and *if*, we can hand the whole thing over to the levee board, when all our flood problems will be handled under one organization in the Delta, whether on the east side or the west side, we have facilitated the progress of our work. We want to exert every pressure possible to get those appropriations through, to say that the east side of the Delta is as well protected as the west side."

On March 19, Washington AP news story stated that flood control works totalling $100,000 for the Mississippi Delta area were added to the Civil Functions Appropriation Bill just before the measure passed the Senate. Included through amendment by Senator Bilbo were projects on the Big Sunflower, Little Sunflower, Hushpuckena, and Quiver Rivers and their tributaries, on Hull Back-Mill Creek Canal, Bogue Phalia, Ditchlow Bayou, Deer Creek and Steele Bayou.

The Flood Control Committee honored retiring Brigadier General Max C. Tyler, President, Mississippi River Commission, with a banquet on November 12 and on the same date welcomed his successor, General Robert W. Crawford. The Flood Control Committee endorsed the appropriations bills for resuming flood control work on the Enid and Grenada Dams. It likewise supported the Overton Amendment to Senate Bill 1120 that exempted from the terms of that bill the civil functions of the Army Corps of Engineers. This committee has on all occasions continued to support the flood control projects of the House Committee and to urge that flood control matters be left within the jurisdiction of the U. S. Army. The Committee likewise was spokesman for the Council's continued opposition to Valley Authorities and specifically acted this year against Senate Bill 555, known as the Missouri Valley Authority Bill.

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FORESTRY

(Henry T. Crosby, Greenville, Chairman; A. B. Adams, Clarksdale; Dr. J. E. Adams, Stoneville; Dr. C. L. Field, Shaw; Ray Gieszl, Vicksburg; James Hand, Jr., Rolling Fork; N. L. Mayhall, Greenville; Monty Payne, State College; Sam Smith, Greenville; Dr. George Rae Walker, Stoneville; T. M. Waller, Mayersville.)

The following report was submitted by Chairman Henry T. Crosby to Delta Council Board of Directors July 12, 1945:

Delta Council Forestry Committee has given much time and study during recent months to Delta Experimental Forest. The program of work of the Experimental Forest will undergo expansion as a result of the Congressional appropriation for forest management research in the South. The amount made available, as of July 1, for the project at Stoneville is $27,000. These funds will be administered by the Southern Forest Experiment Station, U. S. Forest Service, New Orleans. In addition to this new appropriation, the old Farm Forestry Project funds of $5,000 per year will be retained. This will make available for research in bottomland hardwoods at Stoneville a total of approximately $32,000.

Principal accomplishments to date on this program may be of interest:

1. A stand improvement program has resulted in development of a profitable system of cutting which improves composition and growing condition of typical Delta woodlands by removing only undesirable trees. Cutting this material commercially has produced a net income of five dollars per acre for saw timber alone. Fuelwood from tops of sawlog trees and from small trees netted another $2.25 per acre, or a total income of $7.25.
2. Successful regeneration of cottonwood has been achieved by use of cuttings and seedlings.
3. Remeasurement of five-year improvement cutting experiment showed an average annual growth in saw timber of 26 percent against 13 percent in uncut stands; in cords from small trees annual growth was 17 percent in cut stands against six in uncut stands.
4. Fourteen plantations purchased 300 cords of wood in 1944, at a stumpage price of fifty cents per cord.
5. Service tests on untreated fence posts of principal Delta hardwood species have been conducted, with results of five-year test showing osage orange best, followed by red mulberry and Delta-grown black locust, cypress, honey locust, and overcup oak. Tests are now in progress for posts of various species treated with creosote by hot and cold bath process.
6. Delta Council has worked hard to get a portion of roads on the Experimental Forest graveled in order to make them passable the year around and to make "show-me" trips possible during most of the year. To date no concrete result has been obtained.
7. Analysis of tree poisoning experiments shows that poisoning with sodium arsenite should be done when trees are in full foliage. Poisoning will probably not have much place in stand im-

provement in the Delta but may be helpful in scattered cases where very large defective trees must be killed; yet it is not practical to cut them for fuelwood with plantation labor available because of damage that would be done to younger stand beneath.

The program of work laid out for use of these recently appropriated funds is as follows:

1. An accurate inventory of the timber stands on Delta Experimental Forest.
2. Complete road and fire protection systems.
3. Completion of commercial timber cutting, designed to apply improvement cuttings to entire forest.
4. Testing of different types of fuelwood cuttings in small material in order to determine the best course to follow in obtaining improved stands and substantial economic returns.
5. Continuation of present cottonwood regeneration studies and expansion of this type of work to cover other species.
6. Growth rate studies of important species.
7. Studies in harvesting and utilization aiming at improvement of fuelwood cutting methods and development of simple logging equipment easily used by plantation labor.

Last year Delta Council sponsored in this Delta area the project of Mississippi Forestry and Chemurgic Association, Boys' Conservation School, at Roosevelt State Park, Morton, Mississippi. Again this year for five days, August 6-10, boys will gather to receive instruction in forestry, wild life, and soils. Clubs and businesses of the Delta are urged to send boys to learn more about conservation and forestry. July 15 has been set as the last date for qualification and registration. Only two hundred boys can be accepted because of limited camp capacity. A camp fee of $12.50 is charged to cover all camp expenses including transportation. Three boys are allotted from each county. Requirements include that the boy must have finished the eighth grade or be fourteen years of age and older. No former attendants of the School will be accepted, since the idea is to make this program available to as many boys as possible.

To date the following counties and clubs or businessmen have chosen boys whom they will send to the School: Bolivar: Rosedale Rotary Club; DeSoto: Olive Branch Lions; Hernando Bank; businessmen of Lake Cormorant; Holmes: Durant Rotary Club; Humphreys: Baptist Men's Bible Class of Belzoni; Bodine Lumber Company; Silver City merchants; Issaquena County; Leflore: Businessmen of Itta Bena; T. F. Gardner, Swiftown; Sharkey: Rolling Fork Rotary Club; Tunica: Tunica Rotary Club; Washington: Leland Rotary Club.

Mr. Ray Gieszl, of the LeTourneau Company at Vicksburg and a member of this committee, reports that additional experiments with debarkers and land clearing have been carried on, with results which he will soon report to our group.

Respectfully submitted,
HENRY T. CROSBY, Chairman

In August of 1945, Forestry Committee published a booklet, DELTA BOTTOMLAND HARDWOODS, approximately four thousand of which have been distributed throughout the nation.

The Forestry Committee, together with the Legislative Committee, asked from the State of Mississippi this year $12,000 for the purpose of making the road through Delta Experimental Forest all-weather. This appropriation was granted.

Delta Council Board of Directors appropriated to the Forestry Committee $250 for the purpose of conducting a Delta Boys Conservation School which will be held at LeRoy Percy State Park, near Hollandale, July 22-26.

The cooperation of this committee was offered the Gulf, Mobile and Ohio Railroad in putting on their Farm Woodland Improvement Contest for 4-H Club members.

Chairman of the Committee addressed the two-day District Agent's Meeting on Delta forestry problems and needs, October 18-19. Members of the Committee participated in the two days' discussions.

The Committee again this year supported the program of Forest Farmers Association, Valdosta, Georgia, for expanded woodland research in experimental forests through the Southern region. This would mean for the Delta even greater expansion of the research program at Stoneville and for the State of Mississippi additional work at Saucier and two new stations. Also, Delta Council was represented before the same organization at their annual meeting in Birmingham. (For further educational work done by this Committee, see "Mailings.")

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HEALTH

(Dr. L. B. Austin, Rosedale, Chairman; Dr. F. M. Acree, Greenville; Walter Beard, Tralake; Dr. W. H. Brandon, Clarksdale; Charles Cason, Greenville; O. L. Cox, Lake Cormorant; J. P. Fisher, Jonestown; Dr. B. B. Harper, Itta Bena; Dr. N. C. Knight, Greenville; Ed Kossman, Cleveland; Dr. D. C. Montgomery, Greenville; J. M. Montgomery, Inverness; Miss Myrtle Ousley, Greenville; Dr. I. I. Pogue, Scott; J. M. Robertshaw, Greenville; Miss Cassie Smith, Clarksdale; Dr. F. Michael Smith, Vicksburg; Dr. R. C. Smith, Drew; J. T. Thomas, Cruger; W. S. Vardaman, Greenwood.)

On April 19, Delta Council Board of Directors authorized the President to appoint a committee of two men from each county to work with the Health Committee of Delta Council on the special problem of tuberculosis hospitalization. The report of this committee, as follows, was received and considered by Board of Directors:

RECOMMENDED PLAN FOR CONTROL OF TUBERCULOSIS

Amended Plan

1st. Secure an appropriation from the State to build a hospital with not less than 500 beds for Negroes and 300 for white made available.

2nd. Counties to build isolation hospitals for incurable cases if feasible and economic.

3rd. We suggest that each county health department send out case finders to locate and register all cases of tuberculosis.

Medical Profession

All doctors will be requested to report all cases of tuberculosis to the Health Departments.

A chest clinic at each county seat once each week. Public invited.

The Purpose

To put all cases under medical supervision or in public institutions.

Education

More education, training the patients not to infect others.

Our Duty

It is our duty to use all the means and influences at our disposal to control the spread of tuberculosis. Delta Council and the citizens of the Delta know how, and have all the means necessary to control tuberculosis. That being true, it is our own fault if we do not use our influence to secure proper hospitalization and isolation for these cases.

The Appropriation Bill

This bill should be prepared before the Legislature meets. The bill should be placed in the hands of a Senator and a Legislator who will introduce this appropriation bill at the proper time at the next meeting of the Legislature.

Each County Committee will see their Senator and Legislator, urging support for this bill, to establish or build a tubercular hospital, to take care of the curable cases.

Suggested Bill

AN ACT to create and maintain a tuberculosis hospital or enlargement of existing facilities with provisions relating thereto.

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That a tuberculosis hospital for the prevention, care, and treatment of tubercular patients be and same is hereby created and/or enlarged.

SECTION 2. That the authority for the location, planning, construction, and direction of said institution be vested in a board of trustees consisting of the governor, as ex-officio chairman; the Executive Officer of the State Board of Health, as Active Chairman; and three other members, either men or women, appointed by the Governor, at least two of whom shall be reputable and licensed and practicing physicians of the State, and whose terms of office shall be as follows: One shall be appointed for a term of four years, one for a term of six years, and one for a term of eight years. Actual expenses incurred in the transaction of the board's business may be allowed to those trustees who are not already on the State's payroll. An itemized statement of such expenses shall be submitted to each biennial session of the Legislature.

SECTION 3. That said hospital shall be located at whatever place seems most suitable to the board of trustees.

SECTION 4. That said hospital shall provide not less than.....beds for white tubercular patients and not less than.....beds for Negro tubercular patients.

SECTION 5. That said hospital shall be operated under the supervision of the State Board of Health, in conjunction with its tuberculosis control program.

SECTION 6. That said hospital shall be erected with funds provided therefor by the State Legislature, and said board of trustees shall have authority to construct and maintain necessary buildings and improvements as in the judgment of said board shall be required.

SECTION 7. That said hospital shall be operated and maintained with funds appropriated therefor at each biennial session of the Legislature.

SECTION 8. That said hospital shall admit any patient whom the State Board of Health shall certify as needing hospitalization for the prevention, care, or treatment of tuberculosis; and no charge shall be made to any patient who is admitted.

SECTION 9. That there shall be tuberculosis case finders who shall work with the county health departments, under the supervision and jurisdiction of the State Board of Health, the funds therefor to be appropriated by each biennial session of the Legislature, either as a separate appropriation or with a general appropriation to the State Board of Health.

SECTION 10. That said board of trustees shall select a superintendent for said hospital who must be qualified in accordance with whatever standard may be set by the State Board of Health, and shall fix the salary of said superintendent at a sum not to exceed $.....a year. They shall also fix salaries of all other employees of said hospital and make whatever rules may be necessary for the proper functioning of said institution and the welfare of its patients.

SECTION 11. That said board of trustees is hereby authorized, in its discretion, to accept for and on behalf of said hospital, any donation, gift, fund, or other grants made thereto.

SECTION 12. That this act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

When the report was later reviewed by the Legislative Committee and Board of Directors, recommendation made to the Legislature read as follows:

"That the Legislature take such steps as are necessary to provide adequate facilities for the care of tuberculosis patients, especially Negro patients."

The Health Advisory Council of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States paid special tribute to the work of this Health Committee in its monthly publication of June, 1944. The educational work editorialized by the article was that of mailing to members of the organization various publications and information on the sundry health problems of the area; monthly radio broadcasts discussing practical health problems; and regular monthly column in DELTA COUNCIL NEWS, Health for the Delta.

The Health Committee has continued to participate in the programs and work of the Negro Delta Health Council, formed by that committee two years ago. This organization has given to Delta Council a direct contact with the Negro people of the Delta for the dissemination of information, preventive and curative health practices and has enabled the Council to determine more accurately major health needs of the colored race.

The Health Committee in a meeting of June 7, discussed the need for facilities for prevention and cure of tuberculosis and has subsequently investigated all possible assistance that might be granted by the U. S. Public Health Service and Federal Government to the end of eradicating this menacing disease from the area. It is to be noted here that Washington County will be the first county of the Delta to have mass X-ray for the detection of disease.

The report of Dr. Felix J. Underwood, Director, State Board of Health, on the need for more doctors and hospitals in the State, as presented to the State Agricultural Workers' Coordinating Council, was filed with all members of the Health Committee. Delta Council Health Committee arranged for two different State speakers to appear before specific groups in the Delta area. Mr. M. H. Brooks, in charge of venereal disease control education, Mississippi State Board of Health, urged the adoption of a bill by the Mississippi State Legislature for pre-marital examination as a means to catch incipient cases of venereal disease. Dr. Henry Boswell spoke to the groups on the desirability of expanding the patient facilities at Sanatorium for Negroes suffering from tuberculosis rather than establish a separate hospital within the Delta area.

Delta Council Health Committee has continued to cooperate with all county boards of health and to assist when and wherever possible the work of the health educators within the area. Students are in school and will soon be available for service in this line of work, as authorized under the appropriation of $80,000 secured 2 years ago by the Health Committee for training of white and colored girls. Washington County is now attempting to effect an aerial larvicidal malaria control program and Delta Council has given its support to the project. It is the hope of the Committee that such work may be expanded throughout the Delta at the earliest opportunity.

All publicity and educational work as in years past has continued in 1945-46.

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LABOR

(F. C. Wagner, Chairman, Dunleith; Leroy Allen, Leland; Walter Beard, Tralake; J. W. Bradford, Itta Bena; W. F. Elkas, Chatham; W. M. Garrard, Jr., Indianola; B. F. Harbert, Robinsonville; W. H. Hardie, Leland; Fox Hicks, Sledge; P. T. Howard, Lake Cormorant; S. H. Kyle, Roundaway; Irby Turner, Belzoni; D. M. Love, Yazoo City; C. Dudley Miller, Glen Allan; T. E. Pemble, Merigold; C. S. Whittington, Greenwood; C. P. Williams, Greenville; Phil (N. L.) Mayhall, Greenville. Adviser: R. E. Waters, State College.)

Prior to the beginning of the last fiscal year of Delta Council, the Labor Committee was at work on the problem of stabilizing seasonal labor. This program finally took form in the adoption of a resolution calling for a ceiling price on cotton picking wages. On recommendation of the committee chairman, following resolution was adopted by Delta Council Board of Directors on July 12:

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REQUEST FOR BOARD

WHEREAS, because of the War Emergency and demand made for the armed forces and war industries, farm labor has been greatly reduced in the vast agricultural sections of the State, more particularly in the Delta counties, it being estimated that there is less than 50 percent of enough labor in that section to properly cultivate and harvest the 1945 crop; and

WHEREAS, because of this shortage of labor and the keen competition for the inadequate supply available, prices have been increased to such levels as to be prohibitive resulting in serious economic losses to the farmers, thus discouraging the production of food and fiber, more particularly the production of cotton, which situation should be remedied by the placing of a reasonable, fair, and equitable ceiling price on harvesting and picking cotton; and

WHEREAS, it is considered to be for the best interest of the Delta counties and the citizens thereof, as well as for the State of Mississippi, that a War Wage Board for Mississippi be appointed by the War Food Administrator for the purpose of looking to the establishment of a ceiling price for harvesting and picking cotton in the Delta counties of the State:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE DELTA COUNCIL OF MISSISSIPPI, representing eighteen Delta and part-Delta counties of the State, that the War Food Ad-

ministrator be, and is hereby requested to appoint a War Wage Board for Mississippi, and that the Director of Agriculture Extension Service be requested to cooperate with the Administrator to that end:

That the War Wage Board when appointed proceed immediately to ascertain the will of producers of cotton in the Delta counties of the State relative to establishing ceiling prices on harvesting and picking cotton, and take such other action as may be necessary in the premises.

Following the hearing and referendum vote, Delta cotton producers established a ceiling on picking of $2.10 per hundred, plus fixed price for field services and hauling. This program, carried out in conjunction with the Agricultural Committee, is estimated to have saved the Delta at least ten million dollars in labor costs for harvesting the 1945 cotton crop. Representatives of these two committees were present for discussion in Louisiana, Tennessee and Arkansas, regarding the same program which was also adopted by the Delta counties of Arkansas.

Members of the State Extension Service and County Agents of the Delta area gave unstintingly and generously of their time to effect the program and to publicize it throughout the Delta area. Members of the USDA State Wage Stabilization Board likewise worked untiringly to see that the program functioned as intended and no tribute is too high to pay to the many individuals and agencies that carried out the picking ceiling program.

After investigation and deliberation, Delta Council Labor Committee did not take action to bring into the area labor from outside the United States. The committee did, however, successfully request the retention of German prisoners of war for the cotton picking season of 1945-46.

Labor Committee assisted the Wage Stabilization Board in publicizing hearings on desirability of establishing a ceiling price on cotton chopping for the 1946 crop. Referendum vote on the matter will be held April 2.

This committee is currently engaged in discussions with the U. S. Employment Service, Veterans Administration and Red Cross to establish employment reporting service that will avoid duplication of a returned service man drawing any unemployment compensation while engaged in a regular position.

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LEGISLATIVE

(James Hand, Jr., Chairman, Rolling Fork; Col. Alexander Fitz Hugh, Vicksburg; Fred Jones, Inverness; S. H. Kyle, Roundaway; J. A. Mortimer, Belzoni; Walter Sillers, Rosedale; J. B. Snider, Clarksdale; Littleton Upshur, Greenwood; Hilton Waits, Leland; J. S. Williams, Jr., Yazoo City; E. T. Woolfolk, Sr., Tunica; W. T. Wynn, Greenville.)

This committee functions as a focal point in receiving from other Delta Council Committees recommendations for needed legislation in the State of Mississippi. Submitted to the Legislature by that committee this year were the following five points:

(1) That the Legislature take such steps as are necessary as to provide adequate facilities for the care of tuberculosis patients.

(2) That the State of Mississippi should grant its institutions of higher learning appropriations on a per student basis comparable to her sister states and that, as State resources and revenues permit, such appropriations be increased for the expansion and greater development of our colleges and universities.

(3) That appropriation be made by the State Legislature for the purchase of gravel for surfacing of the road in Experimental Forest for all-weather purposes.

(4) Approval of requested appropriation by Delta Experiment Station for next biennium, with particular reference to mechanization studies. This is mostly a matter of provision of personnel for the conduction of that particular experiment and addition of such supplemental equipment as they need to that they already have.

(5) The approval of a resolution stating that the taxes, including privilege, license, reciprocity rights, and gross load limits on motor transports, should be reduced, commensurate and equal with those of surrounding States.

All of these matters received favorable attention by the 1946 State of Mississippi Legislature.

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LIVESTOCK

(C. E. Humphries, Itta Bena, Chairman; Harris Barnes, Clarksdale; J. E. Bennett, Leland; J. E. Cahill, Senatobia; H. G. Carpenter, Rolling Fork; Bill Cooke, Merigold; H. T. Council, Greenville; H. B. Crosby, Greenville; R. M. Dakin, Cleveland, John Garmon, Clarksdale; W. S. Hardin, Duncan; M. P. Moore, Senatobia; J. G. Prichard, Sr., Inverness; M. T. Reed, Belzoni; W. T. Touchberry, Glen Allan; F. C. Wagner, Dunleith; C. S. Whittington, Greenwood; George Uzzelle, Glen Allan.)

Delta Council Board of Directors on April 19 authorized the Livestock Committee to make a study on the establishment of Livestock Sales Yards within the Delta section; supported a request for research work on a pasture program for the Delta at Stoneville Experiment Station, and on June 5 accepted the following report:

"The undersigned committee was delegated with authority and directed by the Board of Directors of the Delta Council to make a survey of the Delta for the procurement of a selection of one or

more marketing outlets for livestock of the Mississippi Delta, and, accordingly, having made a detailed study of the problem, a survey of the cattle of each county, and the various plans of marketing, makes the following reports and recommendations:

"There are two practical plans to be used in the Mississippi Delta for the marketing of livestock:

"1st: Auction sales as prevail in the Mississippi Delta.

"2nd: Form of commission sale, as has been successfully conducted in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, and other communities.

"Based on the facts before the committee, we recommend three locations in the Mississippi Delta for marketing of livestock and in selecting these locations consideration has been given to the possible future construction of a packing plant. We recommend Clarksdale, Greenwood, and Greenville. The sites selected in these communities should be carefully chosen with reference to drainage, type of soil, railroad and highway facilities. The marketing facilities should be constructed adjacent to railroad and highways. The survey justifies immediate construction of a yard at Greenville and Greenwood. The survey does not justify immediate construction of a yard at Clarksdale. We recommend ten acres of a site for marketing facilities and the acquisition of an additional ten acres for packing plant facilities in the future.

"This committee advises adequate facilities for either commission sale or auction sale or a combination can be constructed, exclusive of the cost of land, for the approximate sum of $30,000.00.

"This committee is of the opinion that the success of the operation of these ventures will be based on the interest of the owners of livestock in the respective yards. We therefore recommend, so far as possible, that the owners of cattle become interested in the financing of the respective yards.

"We suggest that the corporate structure be employed and that the financing be done by sale of $20,000 preferred stock or interest-bearing debentures, bearing six percent interest, to the public and that the debentures be a lien senior to the common stock; that the corporation be authorized to issue 1000 shares of common stock, having a par value of $30; that $15,000 of stock be sold in the original financing and the balance be retained to be sold to parties who become interested in the livestock business. Stock limitation of $1,000 should be limited to any one person. In the event it is necessary to obtain outside management and the management requires a stock interest, that such person should in no event acquire more than twenty-five percent.

"This committee recommends that the directors of the corporation should be limited to a maximum of nine; two of whom shall be citizens of the Mississippi Delta having no interest in the stock yards and appointed by the Delta Council as representatives of the public.

"This committee recommends that when the organization is created a very careful consideration should be given to the employment of the management of the business. Each community should determine the type of plan to be used by it; that is, for the commission sale or auction sale.

Respectfully submitted,
H. T. COUNCIL
F. C. WAGNER
C. S. WHITTINGTON"

The two yards at Greenville and Greenwood are in operation, both very successful, and the City of Clarksdale is contemplating immediate construction of a similar yard there.

Appropriation for a pasture research program at Stoneville was included in the funds allocated for the next biennium by the Legislature this year.

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NATIONAL AFFAIRS

(W. T. Wynn, Chairman, Greenville; Oscar Bledsoe, Greenwood; Col. Alexander Fitz Hugh, Vicksburg; James Hand, Jr., Rolling Fork; Walter Sillers, Rosedale; J. T. Thomas, Cruger; Irby Turner, Belzoni; E. T. Woolfolk, Sr., Tunica.)

In cooperation with the U. S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Affairs Committee was established for the first time this year.

Mr. P. F. Williams, Clarksdale, represented the organization of Delta Council at a meeting of the Committee on Economic Development in St. Louis during the early part of May. Mr. Williams reported to that Committee and to the organization of Delta Council that the detailed information requested by C. E. D. for industrial planning was impractical in a strictly rural agricultural area such as presented in the Delta of Mississippi. He emphasized, however, that it was to the interest of all people in the post-war era to keep before the public the intricacies of the employment problem that would follow declaration of peace.

In reporting to the Board of Directors, Mr. Williams stated:

"I think the people of the Mississippi Delta are interested in giving employment to those from the Armed Forces when they return. If we *should* have a long period of 10 or 15 million people without work, not drawing pay, it would be a drain on the Government furnishing unemployment insurance or other means of livelihood and would cause a national depression. But, if we can keep our unemployment to a minimum of two million people during this reconversion period and during this period of relocation of military men, the possibilities are that we will not have the depression that could come otherwise.

"We know that there can be many more people used in agriculture than are willing to work and that we are willing to use them and give them profitable employment."

National Affairs Committee, together with Executive Committee, filed with the Department of State during the latter part of March, a statement supporting the extension of U. S. loan to Great Britain for purchase from this country produce and products needed in the British Isles.

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SOIL CONSERVATION

(W. C. Neill, North Carrollton, Chairman; A. B. Adams, Clarksdale; Dr. J. E. Adams, Stoneville; H. T. Barrier, Yazoo City; Hugh L. Gary, Greenwood; James Hand, Jr., Rolling Fork; M. P. Moore, Senatobia; H. L. Nichols, Lexington; A. V. Shannon, Lake Cormorant; J. C. Stevens, Clarksdale; J. T. Thomas, Cruger; W. M. Yandell, Vance.)

The Soil Conservation Committee had as guests of the June 5 Board of Directors meeting, Dr. H. H. Bennett, Chief of the U. S. Soil Conservation Service at Washington. Dr. Bennett emphasized the need of good drainage in the Delta as a soil conservation practice and warned that this area, like others of the nation, must be constantly alert against erosion. He recommended that certain lands of the area be taken out of production and planted to trees, Kudzu, or grass, to hold soil. He called for the construction of farm fish ponds and for the close integration of water and soil conservation.

"This committee was organized for the purpose of lending assistance to constructive soil conservation measures over the entire Delta area. Since its inception, however, it has concentrated its activity on a critical situation East of the Yazoo River where precipitous descent of hill creeks has confronted that section with a problem of soil erosion, bank caving, channel plugging and levee breaking that is demanding immediate, intensive attention.

"Our Congressman, Mr. Whittington, is fully cognizant of this situation and he has been most cooperative in the matter of having enacted certain legislation under which watershed dimensional water run-off control may be established. This legislation, specifically, Section 13, Public Law 534, 78th Congress, authorizes expenditure of ample *Federal* money to do the job; PROVIDED necessary consent of the State of Mississippi for Federal acquisition of critical areas may be obtained. Under date of March 20, 1946, your Chairman was advised by Mr. H. G. Edwards, Chief, Regional Water Conservation Division, USDA Soil Conservation Service, as follows:

> "We have recently made a report to Washington with our recommendations relative to the land acquisition phase which seems to be the immediate stumbling block holding up Service activity in the Yazoo watershed. We hope to hear from this report within the near future."

"In the opinion of your Chairman, the removal of the above mentioned 'stumbling block' will be the determining factor in the success of our watershed dimensional water run-off control program.

"In any long range view of soil conservation activities, however, consideration must be given to the proposition that they may be wasted effort; unless agricultural producers shall hereafter be accorded full economic equality under laws of the land with producers in other enterprises.

Respectfully submitted,
W. C. NEILL, Chairman."

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TAXATION

(Walter Sillers, Rosedale, Chairman; James Hand, Jr., Rolling Fork; S. H. Kyle, Roundaway; J. A. Mortimer, Belzoni; E. T. Woolfolk, Sr., Tunica; Fielding Wright, Rolling Fork; W. T. Wynn, Greenville.)

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TRAFFIC AND INDUSTRIAL

(W. K. Anderson, Clarksdale, Chairman; M. D. Brett, Clarksdale; N. L. Cassibry, Cleveland; Willis Connell, Clarksdale; Herbert Eustis, Cleveland; Frank England, Greenville; Roger Generelly, Greenville; Ray Gieszl, Vicksburg; W. W. Gresham, Indianola; Rabun Jones, Leland; P. T. Lagrone, Greenville; M. L. Miles, Vicksburg; R. C. Stovall, Columbus; Littleton Upshur, Greenwood; R. C. Williamson, Greenwood.)

Deliberations have been made by the Taxation Committee regarding the possibility of framing a taxation law that would allow farmers to deduct from income tax reports money expended in the improvement of farm buildings.

Following presentation to Traffic and Industrial Committee, on February 20, by Joe T. Dehmer, Mississippi Highway Users Conference, this group adopted a legislative recommendation on motor and transport laws which is set forth in the report of the Legislative Committee. This committee endorsed the formation of the Highway 61 Association, which has been organized to promote increased tourist use of the "Scenic Route" from Memphis to New Orleans. The committee heard from T. D. Davis, Assistant Director, Mississippi Agricultural and Industrial Board, a full explanation of the Mississippi BAWI plan and accomplishments being made within the State to achieve industrialization. Full support of Delta Council was pledged to this program. The Bureau of Public Administration, University of Mississippi, on request of Traffic and Industrial Committee, made a study of the tax structure and form of the municipal government of Greenville, Mississippi, to determine the effect of typical Delta city tax systems on probable industrial expansion, and the burden imposed on Delta municipalities by a bi-racial population supported by taxes from only one part of the total inhabitants. The study was referred to the Mississippi State Legislature and Mississippi Agri-

cultural and Industrial Board, with the recommendation that similar investigations be made of the larger cities of Mississippi in an effort to overcome any barriers to industrialization and to modernize municipal governments and tax systems. A similar study is now under way in the Delta at Leland and elsewhere in the State, at Tupelo.

Through this committee, Delta Council again endorsed a Workmen's Compensation Act for the State of Mississippi.

Traffic and Industrial Committee chairman appeared before the Civil Aeronautics Board in New Orleans and presented need for and requested regular airline service from Memphis to New Orleans through leading cities on the west side of the Delta. It is the hope of this committee that additional work may be done to secure better and faster rail service for the area.

On August 14, 1945, Oscar Herman Levingston, president of the Planters Bank and Trust Company, farmer, ginner and business-man of Ruleville, Mississippi, lost his life in an automobile accident.

John Hilliard Pettey, Delta business leader and executive of cottonseed crushing interests, died on September 20, 1945.

Both of these men served as members of Delta Council Board of Directors since the beginning of the organization and both rendered invaluable service to Delta Council. Mr. Pettey was the third president of Delta Council and served his term of office 1938-39.

Delta Council In Action

ADDRESSES

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Talks by twenty-three Delta Council representatives were made to the following groups:

Greenville Kiwanis	April 3
Cleveland Rotary	April 4
Rosedale Rotary	April 6
Shelby Rotary	April 6
Sunflower Rotary	April 13
Clarksdale Lions	April 27
Indianola Rotary	May 1
Shaw Rotary	May 3
Rolling Fork Rotary	May 4
Greenwood Rotary	May 7
Merigold Exchange Club	May 10
Shelby Rotary	May 11
Delta State Teachers College	May 14
Drew High School	May 15
Drew Rotary	May 15
Extension Service Meeting	May 15
Sumner Rotary	May 31
Greenville Rotary (M. H. Bruner, sponsored by Delta Council)	May 31
Leland Rotary (M. H. Bruner, sponsored by Delta Council)	June 1
Cleveland Rotary	June 20
Greenwood Rotary (Dr. Henry Boswell, sponsored by Delta Council)	July 16
Drew Rotary (Dr. Henry Boswell, sponsored by Delta Council)	July 17
Washington County Home Demonstration Club	July 18
Hollandale Rotary (Dr. Henry Boswell, sponsored by Delta Council)	July 18
Shaw Rotary (Dr. Henry Boswell, sponsored by Delta Council)	July 19
Shelby Rotary (Dr. Henry Boswell, sponsored by Delta Council)	July 20
Elizabeth Home Demonstration Club	July 20
Greenville Lions (Wayne Peck, sponsored by Delta Council)	August 4
Ruleville Rotary	September 13
Wayside Culture Club	September 20
Belzoni Rotary	September 21
National Catholic Rural Life Conference, Greenville	October 3
Shaw Garden Club	October 11
Southeast Regional Banquet of Altrusa Clubs, Jackson	October 20
Clarksdale B&PW Club, Coahoma	October 26
Marks Rotary	October 31
Greenville Garden Club	November 10
Sunflower Junior College, Moorhead	November 13
Cotton Textile Institute, New York	November 28
Itta Bena Rotary	January 9
Forest Farmers Association, Birmingham	January 17
Leland Garden Club	February 6
Hollandale New Era Club	February 13
Leland Veterans Training Class	February 15
Arkansas Agricultural Council, Memphis	February 18
Negro 4-H Club Meeting, Stoneville	February 26
State Lint Certification Committee, State College	March 6
Clarksdale Rotary	March 19
Leland FFA Annual Banquet	March 21
Indianola Garden Club	March 26
TOTAL	50

Committee Memberships

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The following Officers and Committee Chairmen serve as Delta Council representatives on out-Delta Committees: Jere B. Nash, Board of Directors, Mississippi Rural Life Council; Board of Directors, Mississippi Forestry and Chemurgic Association, Henry T. Crosby and Mrs. Dorothy Lee Black; Lint Certification Committee of Mississippi Seed Improvement Association, Selby Downer.

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Delta Council Meetings

1945-'46

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Board of Directors	Clarksdale	April 19
Advisory Research Committee and oil mill representatives	Stoneville	April 25
Executive Committee	Greenville	April 30
Livestock Committee	Greenwood	May 7
Educational Policy Committee and Education Committee in recess, of the Legislature	Cleveland	May 23
Advisory Research Committee	Stoneville	May 29
Board of Directors	Cleveland	June 5
Health Committee	Greenville	June 7
Educational Policy Committee	Cleveland	June 14-15
Labor Committee	Greenville	June 19
Board of Directors	Greenville	July 12
Special Committee on Ceiling Price Publicity	Stoneville	August 4
Labor and Agricultural Committee	Greenville	August 9
Forestry Committee	Stoneville	August 14
Labor and Agricultural Committee	Greenville	August 20
Traffic and Industrial Committee	Greenville	September 20
Sub-committee of Forestry Committee	Stoneville	October 10
Legislative Committee	Greenville	October 24
Educational Policy Committee	Cleveland	November 1
Board of Directors	Greenville	November 20
Advisory Research Committee	Stoneville	December 7
College Consolidation Committee	Greenville	December 10
Executive Committee	Clarksdale	December 11
Advisory Research Committee	Clarksdale	February 20
TOTAL		25

Twenty-five committee meetings were held with an average attendance of 35. Twelve of the 16 active committees held at least one meeting. Board of Directors met four times with an average attendance of 66.

Mailings

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From time to time interesting articles, booklets, etc., are sent to various groups of Delta Council. Following is tabulation for 1945-46:

Material	*To Whom Sent*	*Date*
"Private Enterprise"	Directors	April 12
"How to Avoid a National Timber Shortage"	Directors	April 16
"A Big Job for America"	Directors	April 16
Letter re Tuberculosis Committee for Delta	Delta Legislators and members Board of Supervisors	April 16
"It's a Challenge, Not a Threat"	Directors-at-Large and Delta Press	May 2
"They Will Soon Know All About Cotton"	Delta County Superintendents of Education and Press	May 2
Ballots for election of Directors	Members	May 7
T. V. A. Maps	Directors	May 30
Radio Talk of Dr. J. E. Adams	County Agents	May 31
Report on meat shortage and possible alleviation thereof	Class II Delta Packers	May 31
Mae Cresswell's radio talk	Directors	June 1
"Blue Cross Plan" and "A New Friend"	Directors	June 5
Information on oat grades	Membership	June 14
Sanger's Health Study	Executive and Health Committee	June 19
Cancer leaflet and Health Committee notes	Directors	June 27
Organization leaflet, Annual Report, and Clemson Report	Mailing List	June 28
Boy's Conservation School Survey	Delta Civic Clubs	July 2
Dr. Underwood's Statement on S 191	Health Committee	July 2
Re National Farm Safety Week	Directors	July 13
Letter to cotton spinners and breeders re Hartsville Conference		July 20
Letter re Negro Cotton Picking Contest	Executive Committee	July 25
"Mississippi's Needs"	Directors	July 26
Cancellation of Hartsville Spinner-Breeder Conference	Spinners	July 26
"The South's Place in the Nation"	Directors	August 1
"New Rural Industries that Fit Your Community Needs"	Directors	August 1
Information on cotton picking price ceiling	Members	August 11
Monthly Financial Statement	Directors Began	August 28
O. P. A. regulations on cotton picking ceiling	County Agents	October 1
"The Duty of the State to Look after its Forest Lands to Help its Citizens Raise Crops of Trees"	County Agents, Agricultural and Forestry Committees	October 12
"June Grazing in January"	Livestock Committee	November 9

"The Packaging of American Cotton and Methods for Improvement" and "Agriculture in an Expanding Economy"	Directors	January 1
Letter asking for suggestions on future work	Membership	January 15
"What the Forests and Forest Industries Mean to Mississippi"	Directors	January 21
Announcement of meeting on cotton chopping ceiling	Membership	February 8
Resolution commending International House	Executive Committee	February 9
"A Municipal Survey"	Mississippi Legislature and Directors	February 12
Resolution on National Defense and Security	Directors	February 12
"Farm Mechanization in the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta"	Directors	February 12
"National Defense and Security"	Delta Press	February 15
"We Can Have Better Schools"	Educational Policy Committee	February 26
"Cotton Measures Up to Your Needs"	Directors	February 26
"Mechanical Production of Cotton"	Directors	February 26
"Handbook of Conservation Practices"	Directors	February 26
TOTAL MAILINGS		22,816

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Meeting Participation

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Delta Council was represented at the following meetings, dates indicated, 1945-46:

Hereford Breeders' Annual Meeting and Sale, Jackson	April 2-3
DeSoto County Farm Bureau, Hernando	April 2
Committee for Economic Development, St. Louis	April 30
Extension Service Meeting, Greenwood	May 15
Washington County Chamber of Commerce Livestock Committee Meeting, Greenville	May 18
U. S. Chamber of Commerce, Greenwood	May 24
Flame Cultivator School, Stoneville	May 25
Clarksdale Business Men's Association, Clarksdale	May 31
Mississippi Forestry & Chemurgic Association Board, Jackson	June 12
Regional AAA, Memphis	June 20
Arkansas Agricultural Council, Memphis	June 20
Directors of Greenville, Miss., Livestock Yard	June 21
Recess Education Committee of Legislature, Jackson	June 26
Agricultural Council of Arkansas Board, Memphis	June 28
Louisiana farmers meeting on cotton picking ceiling, Monroe, Louisiana	July 6
Delta Health Council, Mound Bayou	July 31
Boys Conservation School, Roosevelt Park	August 6-8
Demonstration and inspection Leland Canning Plant	August 8

District County Agents Meeting, Greenville	August 9
Arkansas Extension Service and Agricutural Council, Little Rock	August 16
Highway 61 Association, Vicksburg	August 28
Field Day at Bobshaw Chemurgic Plantation, Heathman	August 30
U. S. D. A. State Wage Stabilization Board, Greenwood	September 28
Vicksburg Chamber of Commerce dinner for General Tyler	October 5
Mississippi Forestry & Chemurgic Association Board, Jackson	October 9
District Extension Service Forestry Meeting, Greenville and Stoneville	October 17-18
Board of Trustees for Institutions of Higher Learning, Oxford	October 26
State Farm Bureau, Jackson	October 31 through November 2
Cotton Textile Institute, New York	November 28-29
Meeting on 1946 Crop and Livestock Production Goals for Miss., Jackson	December 14
Leland Veterans Training Course Meet	January 4
Mississippi Forestry & Chemurgic Association Board, Jackson	January 8
National Cotton Council, Memphis	January 15
Forest Farmers Association, Birmingham	January 16-17
Crop Insurance Meet, Greenville	January 24
Delta Negro Health Council, Clarksdale	January 26
Mississippi Seed Improvement Association, Starkville	February 6
Cotton Seedling Disease Meeting, Stoneville	February 11-12
Southern Regional Soybean Conference, Stoneville	February 13-15
U. S. D. A. State Wage Board, Greenwood	February 12
Directors of Ole Miss Alumni Association, Jackson	February 14
Joint Legislative Committee on Education, Jackson	February 14
Agricultural Council of Arkansas, Memphis	February 17-18
State Lint Certification Committee, State College	March 6 & 18
Annual Meeting Mississippi Valley Association, St. Louis	March 25-26

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46 Meetings

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General Agriculture	11
Cotton	13
Education	4
Flood Control	2
Food	1
Forestry	6
Health	2
Industry	3
Livestock	3
Traffic	1

Miscellaneous Activities

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Delta Council participates in, sponsors, and assists many varied programs and activities within the Delta. No one Committee or group takes credit for these projects since Delta Council merely lends its support and help to these works of other agencies. During the past year some of these projects were:

Publicizing of work underway at Delta Purchase Unit.

Furthering of F. F. A. and 4-H Club work. (Delta Council Manager was made an honorary State Future Farmer at F. F. A. Annual Convention, July 18.)

Continued cooperation with the Resource Use Education program of the Committee on Southern Regional Studies and Education.

Assistance in the conduct of Negro Field Day at Delta Branch Experiment Station, August 8.

Dinner for Deans Shepherdson and Barlow, University of Texas, August 20.

Publicizing of ceiling price on cotton picking and chopping, hearings and referendum.

Endorsement of the organization and objectives of Highway 61 Association.

Contribution to the cotton production improvement contest for Delta Negro 4-H members. Award to winner made February 21.

Dinner for Generals Max C. Tyler and Robert Crawford, Mississippi River Commission, November 12.

Judging in Delta F. F. A. Speech Contest, April 28, and in Washington County Live-at-Home contest, October 19.

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Newspaper Publicity

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206 news releases filed with 42 daily and weekly papers and total incheage was 19,297 inches.

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Special Articles

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30 special articles filed with press and magazines.

Special articles and news releases dealt with the following subjects: livestock, Stoneville, housing, small grains, Boys' Conservation school, forestry, Health Department, tuberculosis, venereal disease, flood control, conservation, mechanization of cotton production, new uses for wood, doctor shortage, cancer, hospital shortage, Training Program for Veterans of World War II, ginning laboratory, the geneticist in cotton research, Southern Research Institute, consolidation of three Mississippi colleges, National defense and security, farm forests, human resources and conservation, education, and soil conservation.

Regular news releases and special articles have appeared in the following papers: THE COTTON TRADE JOURNAL, CLARKSDALE DAILY PRESS, CLARKSDALE DAILY REGISTER, DELTA FARM PRESS, DELTA DEMOCRAT-TIMES, COMMERCIAL APPEAL, BOLIVAR COUNTY DEMOCRAT, RULEVILLE RECORD, DREW LEADER, YAZOO SENTINEL, LELAND PROGRESS, VICKSBURG HERALD, DEER CREEK PILOT, CLARION-LEDGER, GREENWOOD COMMONWEALTH, JACKSON DAILY NEWS, VICKSBURG EVENING POST, SHAW ADVERTISER, THE SOUTHERN

STOCKMAN, COTTON DIGEST, SUNFLOWER TOCSIN, BELZONI BANNER, TUNICA TIMES, QUITMAN COUNTY DEMOCRAT, MOUND BAYOU NEWS, SOUTHERN VOICE, and DELTA LEADER. Articles have appeared in the following magazines: THE COTTON TRADE JOURNAL, COTTON DIGEST, MISSISSIPPI POWER & LIGHT NEWS, PROGRESSIVE FARMER, COTTON AND COTTON OIL PRESS, PULLING TOGETHER, and UP.

Action of Delta Council was editorialized by these papers: COMMERCIAL APPEAL, VICKSBURG HERALD, JACKSON DAILY NEWS, LELAND PROGRESS, DELTA DEMOCRAT-TIMES, and CLARKSDALE DAILY PRESS. Articles referring to Delta Council and its work have appeared in the following papers, printed outside the Delta area: THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, THE COTTON TRADE JOURNAL, FAYETTE CHRONICLE (Fayette, Louisiana), FARM IMPLEMENT NEWS, COTTON DIGEST, ACCO PRESS, SOUTHERN PATRIOT, CATHOLIC SOUTH, and COTTON AND COTTON OIL PRESS.

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Radio

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Delta Council presented the following radio programs and speakers over Radio Station WJPR, Greenville, Mississippi:

Hon. W. M. Whittington ..... April 1
J. T. Thomas, Jr. ..... April 9
Mrs. John B. Voskamp ..... April 11
Hon. Littleton Upshur ..... April 16
Paul Henson ..... April 18
James Hand, Jr. ..... April 23
W. T. Wynn ..... April 30
Mrs. Dorothy Lee Black ..... May 2
Forrest A. Murphy ..... May 7
Miss Olive Dowell ..... May 9
A. A. Spencer ..... May 14
Mrs. Voskamp ..... May 16
Henry T. Crosby ..... May 21
Dr. J. E. Adams ..... May 23
Miss Mae Cresswell ..... June 1
Fred Young ..... June 4
Mrs. Black ..... June 5
Herman W. Solomon ..... June 11
Mrs. Black ..... June 13
Mrs. Voskamp ..... June 18
Col. Robert Dowd ..... June 20
Bill Holmes ..... June 25
Dr. Hugh Gamble ..... June 27
Dr. L. B. Austin ..... July 2
Com. Ralph Haxton ..... July 4
Miss Cassie B. Smith ..... July 9
Dr. Dorothy Dickens ..... July 11
Logan H. McLean ..... July 16
Mrs. Black ..... July 18
Miss Myrtle Ousley ..... July 23
Dr. L. W. Whitford ..... July 25
Mrs. Voskamp ..... July 30
Henry Thomas ..... August 1
Dr. Brundon ..... August 6
Dr. Felix J. Underwood's script ..... August 13
L. I. Jones ..... August 20
F. L. Gerdes ..... August 22
J. E. Hutchins ..... August 27
C. A. Bennett ..... August 29
Henry T. Crosby ..... September 3
Col. Dowd ..... September 5
L. C. Maisenhelder ..... September 10
Staff presentation of information on cotton picking ceiling ..... September 12 and 14
Mrs. Black ..... September 17
T. L. Baggette ..... September 19
Mrs. Voskamp ..... September 24
Dr. N. C. Knight ..... September 26
Mrs. Black ..... October 2
John R. Curry ..... October 3
Victory Bond Program ..... October 8 and 10
C. N. Dabbs ..... October 15
D. R. Gavin ..... October 17
D. L. Edson ..... October 22
Hodding Carter ..... October 24
L. C. Maisenhelder ..... October 29
Dr. N. C. Knight ..... October 31
Mrs. Voskamp ..... November 7
Mrs. Black ..... November 12
Dr. J. E. Adams ..... November 14
Mrs. Voskamp ..... November 19
Wayne Peck ..... November 21
George W. Abel ..... November 26
Dr. N. C. Knight ..... November 28
Myrtle Ousley ..... December 3

A. L. Andrews.....December 5
Miss Carmen Pearson.....December 10
Mrs. Eugene Raphael.....December 12
Mrs. Voskamp.....December 17
Mrs. Black.....December 19
Mrs. Bettye Nunnery.....January 16
Mrs. Black.....January 23
Dr. N. C. Knight.....January 30
General A. G. Paxton.....February 13
Bob Thompson.....February 20
Dr. Knight.....February 27
Mrs. Black.....March 6
Dr. Adams.....March 13
T. L. Baggette.....March 20
Mrs. Herman Solomon.....March 27

Radio Station WGRM, Greenwood

Mrs. Dorothy Lee Black.....May 15
Warner Wells, Jr.....January 24
L. A. Wilkins.....February 28
Miss Olive Dowell.....March 28

Radio Station WROX, Clarksdale

W. K. Anderson.....January 17
C. N. Dabbs.....February 21
P. F. Williams.....March 21

Radio Station WQBC, Vicksburg

Col. Alexander Fitz Hugh.....February 12
J. H. Henderson.....March 12

Delta Council has maintained a regular 15-minute program with Radio Station WJPR, Greenville, throughout the year. It is now heard each Wednesday afternoon, 3:15. "In Defense of Our Heritage" series concluded December 17. Beginning in January Delta Council began a monthly series of broadcasts with WROX, Clarksdale, 1:15 P. M., third Tuesday; WGRM, Greenwood, 1:15 P. M., fourth Thursday; and WQBC, Vicksburg, 6:15 P. M., second Tuesday.

Special programs have been broadcast to present Dr. W. A. Pipes, August 8, and Dr. Gus W. Dyer, January 18.

John Farley of New York used material of Delta Council on Walker Housing Unit for a radio script presented in that city.

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Statements and Telegrams

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Date	*Committee*	*To Whom Sent*	*Content*
April 5	Advisory Research	War Production Board, Washington, D. C.	Statement stressing importance of flame cultivation; asking for allocation of material to farmers for building of cultivators and butane tanks.
April 7	Forestry	Senator Richard Russell, Washington, D. C.	Statement on forest research needs for the South.
April 9	State Forest Research	Senator Richard Russell, Washington, D. C.	Telegram regarding South's need for Federal aid in Forest Research.
April 13	Flood Control	Senator Eastland	Statement enclosing resolution adopted by Council with reference to establishment of additional authorities in matters of flood control; asking for support of stand taken by Council to retain Army Engineers for this purpose.
April 25	State Forest Research	Mississippi Congressional Delegation in Washington	Telegram urging support of Forest Research item in Appropriations Bill.
April 28	Agricultural	War Price and Ration Board, Atlanta	Telegram regarding critical need for tractor tires.
May 16	Cotton Improvement	C. C. Smith, Commodity Credit Corporation	Statement protesting unfair differentia on discounts on low-grade cotton.
May 22	Executive	Senator James O. Eastland, Hon. W. M. Whittington	Statement reporting critical meat situation in Delta and asking cooperation in having OPA take corrective action.

May 23	Executive	Senator James O. Eastland, Hon. W. M. Whittington	Telegram and statement concerning effect of OPA rulings on meat packers; stressing need for rulings being modified.
May 23	Educational Policy	Joint Legislative Committee	Statement on needs for Negro Education in the Delta.
May 25	Agricultural	Senator Eastland, Hon. Whittington	Statement by letter regarding ceiling on oats.
May 29	Agricultural	M. P. Leanning, CCC	Telegram regarding Oat Loan Purchase Program.
May 30	Forestry	Members of State Building Commission	Letter calling attention to need for gravelled road within State Experimental Forest and asking for State funds.
May 30	Forestry	Washington County Board of Supervisors	Statement asking the County to appropriate funds for improvement of Delta Forest roads.
June 27	Labor	Senator Bilbo, Senator Eastland, Hon. Whittington	Telegram regarding removal of large numbers of PW's from Arkansas; protesting similar action in Mississippi because of labor shortage.
June 28	Agricultural and Labor	Agricultural Council of Arkansas	Statement re ceiling price on cotton picking.
July 6	Agricultural and Labor	Louisiana farm group	Statement re ceiling price on cotton picking.
July 13	Soil Conservation	Hon. Harold E. Ickes, Secretary of Interior	Letter regarding consideration of request to Bureau of Budget for funds to enable U. S. Geological Survey to complete basic topographical map of U. S.
July 17	Agricultural	Hon. Chester Bowles, Head, Office of OPA, Washington; J. H. Reeves, OPA, Atlanta; Maj. W. E. Holcomb, OPA, Jackson, W. A. Chichester, OPA, Jackson (copies to Delta Farm Bureau Presidents and Delta Ration Boards	Letter setting forth great need for trailer tires in farming operations, asking for special quotas for these tires.
July	Labor and Agricultural	State Wage Stabilization Board	Requested hearings and referendum on ceiling price on cotton picking wages.
Aug. 1	Executive	Senator Eastland	Telegram requesting assistance to grocers in acute lard shortage.
Aug. 1	Agricultural	Senator Eastland, Hon. W. M. Whittington, Hon. Jamie Whitten	Request for special quota on tires for farm trailers.
Aug. 2	Traffic and Industrial	University of Mississippi	Request for tax survey in Greenville, Mississippi.
Aug. 4	Agricultural	State OPA	Request for additional quota on farm trailer tires.
Aug. 6	Executive	Senator Eastland, Senator T. J. Stewart	Statement of need for lard in Delta area.
Aug. 18	Agricultural	War Production Board	Letter requesting reconversion of manufacturing concerns to produce strategic farm machinery and implements.
Aug. 22	Agricultural	War Production Board	Letter urging manufacture of farm machinery be expedited by releasing larger quantities of steel to manufacturers for this purpose.

Aug. 23	Agricultural	H. L. Taylor, Nitrogen Unit Fertilizer Distribution Division USDA, Washington	Telegram requesting immediate release of Cyanamid for use as a defoliant.
Aug. 23	Agricultural	Courtney C. Pace, Office of Senator James Eastland, Washington, and Rep. W. M. Whittington	Telegram asking for cooperation in securing allotment of Cyanamid to meet local demands.
Aug. 27	Agricultural	H. L. Taylor, Nitrogen Unit Fertilizer Distribution Division, USDA, Washington	Telegram stating present allocation of defoliant inadequate; immediate release urgently needed.
Aug. 27	Agricultural	Hon. W. M. Whittington, Courtney C. Pace, Senator Eastland's Office	Telegram requesting assistance in having controls lifted in allocation of defoliant.
Aug. 29	Executive	Hon. W. M. Whittington	Statement requesting assistance in releasing of cook stoves and heaters from rationing.
Sept. 17	Agricultural	Mr. Raymond Firestone, Fireston Tire and Rubber Co.	Letter regarding shortage of trailer tires in Delta.
Sept. 18	Forestry	Legislative Committee of Mississippi Forestry and Chemurgic Association	Statement on need for gravel road in Delta Experimental Forest and request for support in seeking funds from 1946 Legislature.
Sept. 27	Agricultural	Senator Eastland, Hon. W. M. Whittington	Letter asking cooperation in obtaining obsolete, out-size tires for use on farm trailers.
Oct. 23	Agricultural and Labor	Senator Eastland, Rep. W. M. Whittington	Telegram urging legal action against wage ceiling violators.
Oct. 29	Executive, Labor, Agricultural, Legislative	Senator James O. Eastland, Senator Theo G. Bilbo	Telegram urging full support of appropriation bill relative to Enid and Grenada Dams.
Oct. 29	Agricultural, Executive, Legislative and Labor	President Truman	Protest against strikes and urging adoption of strong policy regarding prices and wages.
Nov. 1	Flood Control	Senators Eastland and and Bilbo	Statement urging support of appropriation bill for construction of Enid and Grenada Dams.
Nov. 2	Flood Control	Senators Eastland and and Bilbo	Telegram and statement for support of Overton Amendment regarding civil functions of Army Corps of Engineers.
Nov. 3	Traffic and Industrial	Civil Aeronautics Board	Letter requesting favorable action regarding establishment of air passenger and freight service between Memphis and New Orleans to serve Delta.
Nov. 6	Flood Control	Senator Eastland	Letter requesting vigorous opposition to Missouri Valley Authority Bill and stating Delta Council's conviction that flood control of Miss. River should be vested in Army Engineers.
Dec. 8	Flood Control	Senator Eastland, Senator Bilbo	Statement on Deficiency Appropriations Bill.
Dec. 17	Agricultural	Chilean Nitrate Sales Corporation	Letter requesting cooperation in obtaining early shipments of nitrate of soda.
Feb. 9	Executive	International House, New Orleans	Resolution of commendation
Feb. 11	Forestry	Hon. Jamie Whitten	Telegram and statement asking support of experimental forests for Southern region.

Feb. 12	Military Education	President Truman, House and Senate Military Affairs Committee. U. S. Office of Education, National Guard, Reserve Affairs Committee	Resolution on National Defense and Security.
Feb. 12	Traffic and Industrial	Mississippi Agricultural and Industrial Board	Request that tax surveys be made in Mississippi municipalities to further industrialization.
Feb. 18	Traffic and Industrial	University of Mississippi	Request for tax assessment study in Leland, Mississippi.
Feb. 21	Agricultural and Soil Conservation	Senators Bilbo and Eastland and Hon. W. M. Whittington	Letter requesting increase of drag line ditching payment from $8.00 to $12.00.
Feb. 23	Legislative	Jackson Chamber of Commerce	Telegram supporting State House Bill 424 providing for adoption of experience ratings by Mississippi Unemployment Compensation Committee.
Feb. 25	Executive	Speaker of the House Walter Sillers	Telegram outlining advantages of living in the Delta.
March 7	Health	Hon. W. M. Whittington, Senators Bilbo and Eastland	Letter urging support of Washington County larvicidal malaria control program by airplane.

A total of seventeen telegrams, 18 letters and 20 statements covered the following subjects: research, forestry, health, flood control, farm machinery and equipment, food, ceiling price on meat packers, ceiling price on oats, labor, unemployment compensation, soil conservation, fertilizer, advantages of living in the Delta, defoliant, stoves, tires, air service, education, international goodwill, and industrial development.

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Surveys

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Traffic and Industrial Committee contacted all Delta Chambers of Commerce regarding possible action Delta Council might take to encourage industrialization for those communities interested in manufacturing and processing concerns. April 9.

Delta Legislators and members of eighteen County Boards of Supervisors were asked for their comment on advisability of establishing a Delta Tuberculosis Committee. April 24.

Executive Committee made thorough survey of meat inventory, shortage, and need in the Delta area. This survey served as basis for protest against discriminatory ruling of OPA on Class 2 packers. April and May.

To ascertain the need for farm trailer tires, Mississippi Extension Service, D. L. Edson, District Agent, made a Delta-wide survey to determine farmer requirements. July.

Survey of lard supplies and needs in Delta area made by Executive Committee preliminary to requests for shipment of the commodity to this section. July.

Letter to cotton spinners and breeders to determine advisability of holding Hartsville Conference. July 20.

Delta County Superintendents of Education were contacted regarding a semi-consolidation survey for rural schools.

Directors for the Year 1945-1946

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COUNTIES

BOLIVAR:	HERBERT EUSTIS, Cleveland T. E. PEMBLE, Merigold
CARROLL:	DR. EDGAR GILES, Avalon J. P. MCCAIN, Carrollton
COAHOMA:	C. H. COCKE, JR., Lyon W. E. GRANBERRY, Jonestown
DESOTO:	O. L. COX, Lake Cormorant S. B. DEAN, Hernando
HOLMES:	J. T. THOMAS, Cruger H. L. NICHOLS, Lexington
HUMPHREYS:	J. A. MORTIMER, Belzoni V. B. MONTGOMERY, Belzoni
ISSAQUENA:	B. J. TONNAR, Grace W. T. TOUCHBERRY, Glen Allan
LEFLORE:	J. H. PETTY, Greenwood J. W. BRADFORD, Itta Bena
PANOLA:	H. D. CRENSHAW, Crenshaw C. B. YOUNG, Sardis
QUITMAN:	E. H. ANDERSON, Lambert CLINT HENDERSON, Vance
SHARKEY:	JAMES HAND, JR., Rolling Fork W. T. MCKINNEY, Anguilla
SUNFLOWER:	W. W. GRESHAM, Indianola C. M. DAVIS, Moorhead
TALLAHATCHIE:	BEN STURDIVANT, Glendora C. E. ANDERSON, Charleston
TATE:	J. E. CAHILL, Senatobia M. P. MOORE, Senatobia
TUNICA:	E. T. WOOLFOLK, SR., Tunica B. F. HARBERT, Robinsonville
WARREN:	F. C. WILLCOXON, Vicksburg J. H. HENDERSON, Vicksburg
WASHINGTON:	TORREY WOOD, Hollandale F. C. WAGNER, Dunleith
YAZOO:	J. S. WILLIAMS, JR., Yazoo City H. T. BARRIER, Yazoo City

CITIES

BELZONI:	IRBY TURNER
CLARKSDALE:	P. F. WILLIAMS J. B. SNIDER
CLEVELAND:	N. L. CASSIBRY
GREENVILLE:	FRANK ENGLAND J. M. ROBERTSHAW
GREENWOOD:	FRANK R. MCGEOY, JR. C. S. WHITTINGTON
INDIANOLA:	H. M. TRICE
LELAND:	LEROY B. ALLEN
VICKSBURG:	JOHN BRUNINI J. W. GARRETT
YAZOO CITY:	HERBERT HOLMES

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

OSCAR BLEDSOE, Greenwood
S. H. COKER, Yazoo City
H. T. COUNCIL, Greenville
C. O. DEAN, Leland
COL. ALEXANDER FITZ HUGH, Vicksburg
A. B. FRIEND, Sardis
HUGH L. GARY, Greenwood
W. J. GODBOLD, Doddsville
FOX HICKS, Sledge
OSCAR JOHNSTON, Scott
W. M. KETHLEY, Cleveland
S. H. KYLE, Roundaway
H. H. MCGOWEN, Beulah
J. M. MONTGOMERY, Inverness
C. P. OWEN, Tunica
JOE PRICHARD, Inverness
P. M. B. SELF, Marks
WALTER SILLERS, Rosedale
M. P. STURDIVANT, Glendora
EDMUND TAYLOR, Greenville
W. T. WYNN, Greenville

PAST PRESIDENT:
W. K. ANDERSON, Clarksdale

Revision of By-Laws

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By-laws of Delta Council were amended by Board of Directors on June 5 as follows:

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ARTICLE I

Membership

SECTION 1. Any individual, firm, corporation, or body politic interested in the promotion of agricultural, industrial, commercial, civic, and economic interests of the State of Mississippi, and the Mississippi Delta, shall be eligible to membership in the Council.

SECTION 2. Active membership consists of three classes:

A. Business and sustaining memberships for individuals, corporations, or bodies politic. Dues for this class shall be $25.00 or more per year, depending upon the extent of the interest represented.

B. Voting shall be apportioned on the basis of one vote for each paid membership.

SECTION 3. All dues shall be payable in advance, annually, semi-annually, or quarterly on statement rendered, or by draft, authorization for drawing draft on member's bank having been received.

SECTION 4. Only members who have paid all current dues shall be considered in good standing.

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ARTICLE II

Meetings

SECTION 1. The annual membership meeting of the Delta Council shall be held not later than June 1, at such time and place as may be determined by the Executive Committee.

SECTION 2. The Board of Directors shall meet twice a year; once at the annual meeting and once during the month of November. The time and place of the meeting shall be determined by the President and Board of Directors. The President or the Executive Committee shall have the power to change meeting dates for the Board of Directors and call any special meetings deemed necessary.

SECTION 3. The Executive Committee shall meet on call of its chairman or the President whenever deemed necessary.

SECTION 4. Fifty (50) members in good standing shall constitute a quorum for the annual membership meetings. Twenty (20) Directors shall constitute a quorum for Board of Directors' meetings. Six (6) members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business for the Executive Committee.

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ARTICLE III

Elections

SECTION 1. The officers of the Delta Council shall consist of a President, four (4) Vice Presidents, a Treasurer, and a Secretary-Manager, who shall be elected by the Board of Directors and who must be members of the Board of Directors with the exception of the Secretary-Manager.

SECTION 2. Vacancies occurring among the officers shall be filled by appointments made by the Executive Committee to serve until the first annual meeting.

SECTION 3. The President shall appoint fifteen (15) members of the Board of Directors, who together with the officers shall constitute the Executive Committee.

SECTION 4. Community and County Councilmen and officers and Directors of the Delta Council shall be chosen and elected as follows:

A. THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

1. The communities within each county shall be classified in the following manner:
   Type A Community—Population 10,000 and over
   Type B Community—Population 3,000 to 10,000
   Type C Community—Population less than 3,000
2. The Delta Council members in each community shall express their group opinion through and be represented by a Community Council elected by the members in that community.
3. The Community Council shall be composed of five members. No areas in which there are less than five members shall be considered a community. If there are only five members in any community, all shall be considered councilmen.
4. These Community Councils shall be elected by secret ballot in a referendum held during April each year. All community members in good and regular standing shall be eligible to vote.
5. Every Community Council shall select from its group a chairman and a secretary as its officers. It shall also select from its group a representative to serve on the County Council. Said representative may also be an officer of the Community Council and must be one of the five (5) elected to the Community Council.
6. The election of Community Councilmen shall be conducted by a referendum handled by mail through the central office of the Delta Council. In voting each member shall mark on a ballot containing a list of all members in that community, his choice for the five members who are to serve on the local Community Council. In case of a tie, a run-off election will be held between the tying candidates.
7. Councils representing Type A communities shall select from its group in addition to the representative to the County Council, two Directors to the Delta Council. Said Directors must be two of the five elected to the Community Council.
8. Councils representing Type B communities shall elect from its group, in addition to the representative to the County Council, one Director to the Delta Council.

B. THE COUNTY COUNCIL

1. The County Council shall be composed of one representative from each of the Community Councils in the county. There is no limitation on the number of representatives which comprise the County Council. The County Council shall have as many members as there are organized Community Councils in the county. In the event there is only one Community Council in the county, that Community Council shall also serve as the County Council.
2. Every County Council shall elect from its group a chairman and a secretary as its officers. It shall also elect from its group two members to serve as Directors of the Delta Council. Said Directors must be two of the five elected to the County Council.

C. THE DELTA COUNCIL

The Delta Council shall be governed by a Board of Directors which shall be elected as follows:

Two Directors elected by the County Council of each of the eighteen counties represented in the organization	36
Two Directors elected by the Community Councils in each of the four Type A communities; namely, Clarksdale, Greenwood, Greenville, and Vicksburg	8
One Director elected by the Community Councils in each of the five Type B Communities; namely, Cleveland, Indianola, Belzoni, Yazoo City, Leland	5
Sixteen Directors-at-large elected by the Board of Directors at their meeting held at the time of the Annual Meeting and, in addition to this number, Past Presidents of the organization not elected as County or City Directors	Indefinite

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ARTICLE IV

Duties of Officers

SECTION 1. The duties of the President shall be such as are usually performed by such officer. He shall preside at the annual meeting and make an annual report to the Board; he shall sign all instruments and papers required by law to be signed by the President.

SECTION 2. A Vice President shall perform the duties of the President in his absence or inability to act.

SECTION 3. The Directors shall represent their constituency at all meetings of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee and have charge of all the books, records, and papers of the organization. The Secretary-Manager shall keep an accurate roster of the members and shall issue all calls for meetings.

When required to do so, the Secretary shall sign all instruments and papers required by law to be signed by such officer and shall have custody of the common seal of the organization. All vouchers of the organization shall be signed by the Secretary-Manager and presented to the Treasurer for payment. The Secretary-Manager shall also discharge such other duties as the Directors or Executive Committee may prescribe.

SECTION 4. The Treasurer shall receive and disburse, upon proper voucher signed by the Secretary-Manager, all monies belonging to the organization. He shall keep an accurate record of all receipts and disbursements and make such reports as may be requested by the Board of Directors or the Executive Committee. In the event bond is required of the Treasurer, the organization shall pay the premium therefor.

SECTION 5. The Secretary-Manager and all other employees of the organization shall be appointed by the Executive Committee who shall fix the term of employment and compensation therefor. The duties of the Secretary-Manager shall be prescribed by the Executive Committee and he shall be responsible for the conduct of the office of the organization.

SECTION 6. The chairman and secretaries of the County and Community Councils shall perform such duties as may be requested of them by the Executive Committee.

★ ★ ★

ARTICLE V

SECTION 1. The fiscal year of the Delta Council shall begin April 1 of each successive year.

★ ★ ★

ARTICLE VI

Order of Business

SECTION 1. The order of business at all meetings shall be in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order, where no specific regulation is adopted. No matters pertaining to religion shall ever be discussed, considered, or handled in any way at any meeting of this organization. Only political subjects which affect the economic and civic welfare of the territory of this organization shall ever be considered. This organization shall be forever prohibited at any of its meetings, or elsewhere, from espousing or opposing the political cause of person or party. The Delta Council shall refrain from any participation in local controversies or intra-Delta disputes.

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ARTICLE VII

The by-laws of this organization may be amended by either of the two following methods:

(1) A two-thirds vote of the members present and in good standing at the annual meeting, provided, however, that said amendment shall first have been approved by a majority of the Board of Directors.

(2) By a three-fourths vote of the Board of Directors. Any change made in the by-laws by the Board of Directors shall be binding until disapproved by a majority of the members at the annual meeting.

Field agent

April 3, 1946

Mr. Harry L. Wright
914 Gaines Street
c/o Urban League
Little Rock, Arkansas

Dear Harry:

You are doing a good job in Arkansas. I suggest that you get the members of the local Interracial Committee (Pine Bluff) to call on their State Legislative Representative and State Senator and lay the problem of the overcrowded college before them. Somebody should also go and see the Governor. State American Legion officials could also be interested.

You say that the Pine Bluff Guidance Center is the only one available to Negroes in the state. Surely whatever other Guidance Centers there are in the state are technically available to Negroes. If not, I would be greatly surprised and would like to know why not and how not.

Can you get any news of efforts of Negroes to get jobs as training officers in the Veterans Administration?

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

PAUL D. WILLIAMS, RICHMOND
PRESIDENT
P. B. YOUNG, NORFOLK
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT
FRANK W. SPENCER, SAVANNAH
SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT
CARTER WESLEY, HOUSTON
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EMILY H. CLAY
SECRETARY-TREASURER
GEORGE S. MITCHELL
DIRECTOR OF VETERANS SERVICES
RAY WARWICK
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

Field Agent (Wright)

Southern Regional Council, Inc.

ROOM 432, 63 AUBURN AVENUE, N. E. ATLANTA 3, GEORGIA

A Council to attain, through research and action, the ideals and practices of equal opportunity for all peoples in the South

April 6, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Avenue N.E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

I have just returned to Little Rock from a visit to Forrest City and Marianna - out where Negro veterans can't "hear the school bells ring." My suspicions were confirmed - Negro veterans over in this part of the State are not informed on their rights as veterans and the same group of uninformed community leaders that I've found elsewhere are here.

Forrest City is a small town of about 6,000 people - half of these are Negroes. It's a town thriving on the agricultural enterprises of the nearby communities; everybody thinks in terms of agriculture - especially where Negroes are concerned. There are about three Negro Doctors, a few Negro Teachers, still fewer tradesmen and the usual large number of just plain workers.

It's a peaceful little place, no police brutality or the like - the Negroes seem to "just be there." There is a school - inadequately equipped and poorly managed. This is the kind of community I found Negro veterans "hanging around."

Dr. J. Emerson Burke, is the leading Negro Citizen in this community. His office is located in the main business district of the town and most of his work is with the White Populace. Through one of my school mates I met Dr. Burke and he introduced me to officials.

I took my usual look around the town and had my casual talks with veterans - all kinds of veterans. Together with Professor Jeffers. I went in to have a talk with the Contact Officer, Mr. Charles S. Shivley. It would have taken a detective to locate his office if Mr. Jeffers hadn't known - there were no signs up the narrow passage to his second floor office. Mr. Shivley was very courteous especially after I mentioned his boss in Little Rock had asked me to stop in to visit his office. He admitted that Negro veterans weren't taking advantage of their rights to a great extent but he added: " they're doing a good job." I asked how many Negroes did he have on job training (I knew already) he said he had two - that was just half of my question. He said he had eighty-eight white veterans on job training. I asked him if he called that a good job when Negroes number more than half of the population. I didn't expect him to smile.

I suggested to Mr. Jeffers that he and his five school veterans round up as many veterans as they could and to invite Mr. Schivley, Mr. Dewitt Smith of the USES, and a number of the leading Negroes to a meeting where veterans' rights could be discussed.

The meeting was set at 8:00 p.m. Wednesday night. The two white officials named and a Professor Adams of the white high school met with about fifty veterans and community leaders. I was asked to speak first - I set the stage and told the officials what was needed to be said. As an example of what was needed I asked all veterans who knew where the Veteran Contact Officer's office was located to hold up their hands - two hands were held. All of the officials spoke plain and sincere and explained all the rights of veterans - I saw that plenty questions were asked.

After the veterans meeting the group broke up into little groups, usually a white official, one of the Negro businessmen and a few veterans standing around discussing something that wasn't quite clear in the formal meeting. I was satisfied that " a seed " was planted here.

Mariana and Forrest City should be twin cities - the background is the very same.

- Mrs. A. M. P. Strong is the most outstanding Negro in this section. In fact she is one of the leading Negro Women of the Nation. A visit to the campus of her school convinced me why. This school is an example for the South in the way a rural school should be run.

There are only about ten veterans in school here and they are taking courses designed for college entrance. A fine group of young fellows - unusually well informed - due only to Mrs. Strong's advice.

Mr. R. D. Smith, a veteran, lawyer and member of the American Legion, helps the fellows out in any way he can in getting their forms executed - his is a voluntary service. The Veteran Contact Officer visits this town once a week - none of the Negro veterans with whom I talked knew when he was even supposed to come there. There are five white veterans on job training and no Negroes. Nobody seems to be concerned why this is ignored. This is a situation where I'm not able to do much on the scene, but it furnishes me a good example to present to officials when I tell them how their agencies are not rendering services to Negro veterans in a fair measure.

My best wishes to you and the Staff.

Your friend,

Harry L. Wright

Harry L. Wright

- -

Field Agent

April 12, 1946

Mr. Harry L. Wright
c/o Urban League
914 Gaines Street
Little Rock, Arkansas

Dear Harry:

Thanks for your letter of April 6th.

It does more good every time you reach these small places.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Field Agent

Field Agent

April 19, 1946

Mr. Harry L. Wright
c/o Urban League
914 Gaines Street
Little Rock, Arkansas

Dear Harry:

Thank you for your letter of April 16th.

I have worried some about the situation at Helena. Where can you get some help toward cleaning the place up? I thought of the churches and I thought of Congress. Congress is no good, because the Congressman is in my experience a bad egg, by name Gathings. I assume that the churches have already been overpowered by the situation - at any rate, the Negro churches.

Why isn't that problem one for the Arkansas Interracial Committee?

I assume you have run into some special problem in connection with the Committee on the matter of the State College for Negroes, but this Helena business seems to me the kind of thing that only a local bunch could work at, and they should be such a local bunch.

Mr. Bohannon suggests unrolling a recreational program. That would be movies, and a clean bowling alley, and maybe a decent pool room. The Legion might do that, or the YMCA, or some inter-church group.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

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Southern Regional Council, Inc.
ROOM 432, 63 AUBURN AVENUE, N. E. ATLANTA 3, GEORGIA

A Council to attain, through research and action, the ideals and practices of equal opportunity for all peoples in the South.

April 16, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
Room 424, 63 Avenue N. E.
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

I am still very much concerned about the over-crowded conditions for veterans at the Arkansas State College for Negroes and about what is the most effective way to help out in the matter.

Your suggestions were appreciated. In order to get a current picture of the situation, I took a trip back to the college and had another talk with Mr. Evans, the Veterans Adviser and Dean Johnson. There are now enrolled there 325 veterans. On April 1, 1946 seventy-five veterans were refused admission due solely to the lack of space, training facilities and teachers. Prospects of remedying this condition by the next registration date are dark; in fact an additional number will have to be refused admission.

After getting the facts, I went in to see Mr. Winn, State Manager of the Veterans Administration and laid the facts on the table. He admitted he knew that the conditions for training Negro Veterans were bad; although he didn't have the specific information that I was giving him. I found Mr. Winn to be well-mannered, understanding and considerate. He was acquainted with the problems of Negroes in the South and he impressed me as trying to help better conditions. I had my speech already for him but he "stole my thunder" by stating all the evils of such a condition as existed for Negro Veterans in Pine Bluff. He explained to me that the Veterans Administration didn't have the authority to see that the state built schools for veterans - "so what can we do." I told him that the Veterans Administration could make such facts as I had related available to state officials; in such an instance as this case it would at least show for state officials that Negro Veterans have at least the "moral support" of the Federal Government. He promised that he would be happy to help out in this matter by writing a letter to whomever I suggested confirming the over-crowded conditions as I had pointed out to him. I plan to use this.

I have given Mr. Clovis Copeland, Assistant Adjutant of the State

Department of the American Legion, the facts on the over-crowded condition. He wanted to know right away how the American Legion could help. As he was busy at the time; I asked him to ponder over it and I would come in to talk it over with him Tuesday. Here's what I have planned. I am planning to ask Mr. Winn of the Veterans Administration to write a letter to the Governor confirming the lack of adequate training facilities for Negro Veterans in Arkansas; then I want to get the American Legion to say that they have an interest in seeing that additional training facilities are immediately made available to Negro Veterans, either by a letter or orally. Armed with these I am asking the American Legion to arrange me a conference with the Governor. I have good reason not to include the Interracial Commission in these discussions at this time. We'll see how this works.

In thinking over my trip to Marianna, I felt that I may be able to help out in some way by getting a few of the fellows together and talking with them. I have considered it wise to always invite some official of one of the Veteran Agencies in to give out the information; in Mariana there were no officials of any Veterans' Agency. I phoned Mrs. A. M. P. Strong, principal of the high school, and told her that I would be able to stop off in Marianna on my way to Helena if she could arrange a meeting of veterans in the school and the community.

There were about twenty veterans in the meeting. I have never felt more appreciated. I outlined the opportunities that were available to them under the "G. I. Bill" and explained these rights in simple language that every little country boy there could understand. I had them to take a pencil and paper and to write down the names and addresses of persons who could give them information on their rights. I suggested that they organize a veteran's club under Mrs. Strong's sponsorship and to keep in tact until they could affiliate this club with one of the national veterans organizations. I have asked this group of fellows to invite the contact officer who occasionally visits the town to speak to them.

Helena, Arkansas - a delta town of 8,546 people; 4,648 of this number are Negroes. This town like all of the other delta towns thrives on the surrounding agricultural communities. Helena has three large mills that offer some employment to Negroes other than the usual domestic jobs about the town.

In Helena, I saw the Negro at his worst. I saw him dirty, indifferent, sinful, uninformed and as the "Bilbos" would put it - "downright trifling." It's an ugly picture.

Dr. R. Dan Miller is the leading Negro Doctor in town, and one of the few public-spirited people I found there. After I was introduced to Dr. Miller, I asked the usual questions - instead of answering, he carried me around to show me what Negro Veterans were doing.

As a boy I have read all the books I could get, on "Life on the Mississippi" - about "river rats" gambling dens and vice dens. In Helena, I saw all of these. The city government officially authorizes such places and receives fees from their operation.

In every one of these places Dr. Miller carried me, I saw my boys with their discharged emblems pinned on some old dirty shirt standing over grimy gambling tables rolling dice and cursing. Dr. Miller arranged for me to talk with one or two such fellows in each of these places. I found that they weren't interested in going to school or learning a trade or "haven't thought about it yet." I found that a large number of veterans who lived in the nearby communities were leaving the farms to come to this "open town" to try to live by being one of the smart gamblers. Nobody seems to be concerned about the situation - the people who could do something about the situation seem to be too busy "taking the money away from the fools."

There is a veteran contact office in the town. Mr. Robert E. McKnight is the contact officer. In presenting my credentials, Mr. McKnight saw that I was a Marine. After talking we discovered that we had met in the Corps; so our talk was on a "chummy" basis. Mr. McKnight explained that there were "eighty-some" white veterans on job-training and "some Negro veterans in school." He admitted that he hadn't made any effort to get Negro veterans placed. He wanted to know what Negroes in the town would help him to get Negro veterans on job-training. He suggested that I have some of these Negro Leaders to come to his office to talk it over. I gave him a lecture then on his duty in helping these Negro veterans just like he did the white fellows, and I explained in terms that were familiar to both of us as Marines; that it was his duty to go by to see these Negro Leaders. I explained that his boss had asked me to see how effective a job he was doing with Negro veterans. He promised to go by to meet the Negro Leaders and to arrange a meeting of all the veterans in the area. I am to be invited. Mr. McKnight is also the contact officer for Marianna; he promised to visit Mrs. Strong's office on his next visit there to see how he can help Negro veterans in that area. I told him how uninformed I had found Negro veterans out in the Marianna community.

I visited the school and all the other usual places and met the few "solid citizens" and got their impression. Helena presents an ugly picture, and offers a challenge. My efforts seems so small toward such a big problem I am finding in all these little towns in the back woods of Arkansas. Best wishes to you and the staff.

Your friend,

Harry L. Wright

Harry L. Wright

PAUL D. WILLIAMS, RICHMOND
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RAY WARWICK
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

Southern Regional Council, Inc.

Field Agent (Wright)

ROOM 432, 63 AUBURN AVENUE, N. E. ATLANTA 3, GEORGIA

A Council to attain, through research and action, the ideals and practices of equal opportunity for all peoples in the South

April 23, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
Room 424, 63 Auburn Avenue N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

This week I have spent most of my time trying to actually do something about the over-crowded condition at the Negro State College.

As planned I went in to have a talk with the American Legion. I had asked them to ponder over the situation awhile then later we'd discuss it. When I arrived they had given the matter quite some thought. The State Commander had told the Assistant Adjutant, my friend, Mr. Copeland to suggest that I inspect two of the Re-location Projects with a view toward recommending that the State take over one of these centers to establish a trade school as an extension of the Negro State College. I liked the idea right away. I have found that whenever we critize, the question is always put to us: "what can we do about it." This project idea could be my answer.

At the suggestion of the American Legion I decided to make an inspection of the Re-location Camp at Rohwer and Jerome Arkansas. The officials whom I get in to see usually get rid of me easily by saying, "anything this office can do for you Wright, just let us know and we'll cooperate." I always thank them in a polite kind of way and keep their promises "on ice."

At the Veterans Administration's office I took one of their promises "off ice" and asked them to authorize their Negro Veterans Advisor, Mr. E. E. Evans of Pine Bluff to take this trip with me. I wasn't suprised that my request was granted.

I took a bus down to Pine Bluff, from there Mr. Evans and I motored down to McGhee, Arkansas, then about twelve miles to Rohwer, Arkansas back to McGhee and about twenty miles to Jerome, Arkansas. At the Rohwer Re-location Project, I presented my credentials and added that the State Department of the American Legion was interested in us seeing all the features of the camp. The officials were then very cordial. We were shown every feature of the camp by one of the Colonels who insisted on driving us in his car. The project is a dream. With a small sum of money the State could convert this project into an excellent trade school for veterans.

There is enough housing to accommodate 3,000 veterans, their families and for class rooms and the like. I am enclosing a list of the facilities available. Here

is a wonderful opportunity.

In plain words I asked some of the white people who worked around the camp: "Would you white people object to Negro veterans moving in here to try to learn how to better earn a living, after all the German war prisoners who fought us, move out?" I knew that they would answer right; at least, while I was there. I was really interested in letting them have the idea to talk among themselves after I was gone.

At Jerome, the project was the same as at Rohwer. There were better roads leading to the Center.

On this trip we passed through a number of small towns and I took every opportunity to peep in on how my people were getting along. I found them in the same old "rut", I have found elsewhere. In Dermott, Arkansas, we stopped in to visit one of the principals of a rural school - he estimated that there were about fifty veterans in the town. He knew nothing about Job or Farm Training for Veterans. Mr. E. Evans promised to go back to this school and to talk with the fifty veterans in the town.

In McGhee, I stopped off to spend a couple of days. Usually in every good-sized town there is a good solid colored citizen who can just about get you in to see anybody in the town and set you in good standing. When there isn't such a Negro who can be readily found - then its the best thing to just "take a look at the situation". McGhee was such a town.

I found the office of the County Supervisor Mr. Guy Ford, of the Farm Security Administration went in and got acquainted because Mr. Whitaker, Regional Director had asked me to stop in to meet the county people. Mr. Ford was cordial in giving me the background of the town - employment, education and the like.

The Veterans Contact Office was located in one of those same kind of two story buildings I have been finding around - not a sign to be found anywhere.

Under these conditions I found a different type of Contact Officer. Mr. Paul E. Goss, young, cordial, friendly, informed about Negroes and actually doing something and with records to show he knew what Negroes were doing. I shook his hand twice after he explained that he had a sign being painted for his office.

Here is the record he set before me as I sat down; this is a break-down of contacts he has had during the last month in the three counties (Drew, Desha, Chica - large Negro populations) he had visited:

Subject	Number	Percent
Education	105	41
Pensions	32	12
Loan	34	13
Surplus property	22	8
Arrears of Service pay	22	8
Allotment and other inquiries	20	8
Insurance	12	5
Hospitalization	11	5
	258	100
*Colored	55	21

This type of information would help our work a great deal if we could induce Contact Officers to furnish such. In addition to this Mr. Goss had visited a number of the Negro ministers, and all of the Negro schools. He had a file of "key" Negroes in his area. Frankly he admitted to me he wasn't able to get into the confidence of any one of these Negroes, yet. He said he needed my help. Together we are planning a meeting of community leaders and veterans in his area. I think this officer will be able to help out a great deal here.

Back in Little Rock, I went in to see my friends in the American Legion and expressed my views about the Re-location Projects. I asked them to make an appointment for me with the State Department of Education.

Mr. Ralph Jones, State Commissioner of Education was ill so I talked with Mr. Ed McCuistion, Director, Division of Negro Education - I wouldn't let him get a word in until I had said all of my little speech I had ready for him. I think I have got the ball slowly started. Enclosed is a memorandum we worked out for Mr. Jones and President Davis, of the Negro State College. Every chance I get I am going back to the American Legion Office to ask them to inquire about the progress of this project.

I spent a day at the Negro Teachers Annual Meeting. Made valuable contacts for other visits throughout the state.

Best wishes to you and the staff.

Your friend,

Harry L. Wright

Harry L. Wright

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23. April, 1946

Dear Dr. Mitchell,

Here the forms 57 completed. If you feel that I can do more good by getting a job in Washington I am anxious to get started.

I ~~think~~ feel that I am your right hand man; that's why I am down here because I believe in you and the work we are doing. This is always important to me.

I have my heart in this work and I know I am doing a lot of good if I can do more I'll go anywhere to do it.

Thanks a lot for your faith in me.

Your Friend

Harry L. Wright

I have left the salary upon for your judgment

Circular
No. 99

Veterans Administration
Washington, D. C., April 25, 1946.

INTERPRETATION AND APPLICATION OF "SUPERVISION OF VETERANS ENROLLED FOR COURSES OF TRAINING"
(V. A. CIRCULAR 61, 1946)

1. In V. A. Circular 61, March 14, 1946, Managers are authorized and directed to institute direct supervision of veterans enrolled in schools and training-on-the-job establishments to the extent necessary to protect the interests of the Government and the veteran. In the case of the veteran pursuing a course of education or training in a school or training-on-the-job establishment which has been offering over a period of years well-established and recognized courses of training, the Circular contemplates only that supervision which is required by V. A. Instruction No. 4, dated April 17, 1945, Title II, Public Law 346, 78th Congress. It is expected that such institutions will report to the appropriate Regional Office of the V. A. the attendance and the progress of the veteran in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 2 (A), (B) and (C), V. A. Instruction No. 4, dated April 17, 1945. However, if these institutions are unable to make reports in accordance with these instructions, it will be necessary for a training officer to obtain this information.

2. The last two sentences of paragraph 4, V. A. Circular 61, are being interpreted to mean that the employer-trainer must guarantee appointment to the position for which the veteran is being trained. This is incorrect. The V. A. assumes that where employers are offering bona fide courses of training to any employee they are offering such courses for the purpose of preparing that employee for appointment to the job for which he is being trained and further that the appointment will be made on or before the completion of the training. It is considered fair to assert that this is the common practice. Business establishments are not in the business of training people except where they need people to fill particular jobs. It is further believed that business establishments which are taking veterans into employment and processing them into training status under the Servicemen's Readjustment Act where there is no job to which each veteran will be appointed upon the completion of his course commonly are not giving the veteran a course of training in any reasonable conception of what a situation must be in order to constitute a course of training. The last two sentences in paragraph 4 are intended to emphasize that there is little point in training on-the-job unless such training is to qualify the veteran for that job or another job requiring the same qualifications. Circumstances in some cases may make it proper for a veteran to be trained by on-the-job method with advance understanding that he does not expect to be employed by the particular on-the-job establishment at which he will receive his training. For example, a veteran might wish to learn shoe repairing, carpentry, or any of a number of other crafts with the idea that he will establish his own business and therefore will not wish to accept employment with his employer-trainer. Nevertheless he would be training for a job which is attainable as a direct result of training rather than through promotion to the next higher position within the organization which advancement may be dependent upon many factors other than the completion of the so-called course of training. Furthermore, he will be training for a job which offers many opportunities for employment and is not limited in any sense to the establishment in which the training is received. Thus employment is available or will be available when training is completed because of the fact that there are many opportunities for such employment not necessarily at the place of training. If the employment objective is one which is limited to the establishment in which the training is to be given because a large proportion of the knowledge and the skills to be acquired are peculiar to the business of the particular establishment, then it is expected that the establishment will under normal conditions have a place to employ the veteran when training is completed, assuming, of course, that the veteran's conduct and progress during training continue to be satisfactory. No employer is expected to guarantee a job to a veteran who fails to demonstrate during the course of his training that he will merit employment. Neither is an employer-trainer expected to guarantee a position against unforseeable circumstances which may arise and make it necessary for him to reduce his force or at least not to expand it. On the other hand the V. A. must protect the interests of the veterans who elect bona fide courses of training-on-the-job by preventing an employer from taking veterans as trainees when the employer knows or has reason to think that employment will not be available when training is completed. The V. A. does not consider that the law is intended to provide a means for any employer to obtain help at less than standard wages with the idea that the Federal Government will make up the difference. Neither is it a means for subsidizing veterans in employment under the guise that they are being trained

3. A copy of this Circular will be sent by the Manager to the appropriate agency of the State responsible for approving training establishments; also, a copy will be sent to each training establishment in which veterans are now or hereafter enrolled and pursuing a course of training. Additional copies of this Circular will be forwarded under separate cover to Managers of Regional Offices to provide for this distribution. (7)

By direction of the Administrator:

ELDON L. BAILEY,
Executive Assistant Administrator.

NOTE: This Circular has been given distribution priority over Circulars Nos. 97 and 98 in order that all field stations may receive the information contained therein at the earliest possible date. Circulars 97 and 98 will follow in due course.

News

AMERICAN COUNCIL ON RACE RELATIONS
32 WEST RANDOLPH STREET CHICAGO 1, ILLINOIS
Call Information Service Phone CENtral 3066

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Recommendations to eliminate segregation and discrimination and to include greater minority representation in government programs for veterans were made in conferences with Washington officials last week by a special committee headed by Charles H. Houston, vice-president of the American Council on Race Relations. The conference followed proposals adopted at the recent national emergency Conference on Minority Veterans Problems, of which Houston was chairman.

Mr. Houston reports that specific recommendations to the officials of the U.S. Employment Service, Apprenticeship Division, Reemployment and Retraining Administration, Office of Education, and the Office of the Housing Expediter were uniformily well received, and predicted prompt action on the part of these agencies to implement the committee's proposals.

In conference with William Patterson, director of the apprenticeship division, Department of Labor, the committee recommended the employment of representatives of all groups in the community on apprenticeship programs; that the agency employ qualified minority workers on its field staff to assure the integration of minority workers in local apprenticeship programs, and that the agency assemble and issue current statistics showing the degree to which minority workers are served by the program.

The committee pointed out to General Graves B. Erskine, director of the reemployment and retraining administration, Department of Labor, the general inadequacy of services in most local veterans information centers and made the following recommendations: minority representation on local information center

committees; use of minority counsellors and interviewers in the centers; inclusion of qualified minority personnel on the agency's staff on a policy making level, and increased emphasis by the national office on the special responsibility of local centers to assist minority veterans in securing job opportunities.

In their meeting with Dr. John Studebaker, of the Office of Education, the committee emphasized the great opportunity of advancing education for Negroes, Japanese Americans, Mexican Americans, and other minorities through the veterans' program. They also requested Studebaker to work more closely with state educational officials to see that opportunities and facilities for vocational education for Negroes in the South are improved, and asked the agency to take a positive stand against discrimination in local educational programs financed through the G.I. Bill.

Similar recommendations were made by the committee to Wilson Wyatt, National Housing Expediter, to include provisions for minorities in all phases of F.H.A. The committee also urged the F.H.A. to assure minority workers opportunities for employment on construction projects.

In its conversations with Robert Goodwin, director of USES, the committee stated that minority groups were disappointed with the lack of aggressive action on the part of the agency to insure full employment of qualified minority veterans.

"Our committee, as a result of its conferences with government officials," said A.A. Liveright, executive director of the American Council on Race Relations, "believes that definite progress has been made and that with continued pressure results will be achieved."

Recommendations to the Veterans Administration were to be discussed in a conference with Generals Omar Bradley and Paul Hawley scheduled for May 1.

# # # # #

4/30/46

May 3, 1946

MEMORANDUM TO: All field agents
FROM: George S. Mitchell

I learned day before yesterday in Washington that Circular 61 has now been "clarified" by Circular 99.

It is supposed to make things easier, and I think on the whole it will.

Sincerely,

George Mitchell

PAUL D. WILLIAMS, RICHMOND
PRESIDENT
P. B. YOUNG, NORFOLK
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT
FRANK W. SPENCER, SAVANNAH
SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT
CARTER WESLEY, HOUSTON
THIRD VICE-PRESIDENT
CHARLES S. JOHNSON, NASHVILLE
CHAIRMAN, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
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ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
EMILY H. CLAY
SECRETARY-TREASURER
GEORGE S. MITCHELL
DIRECTOR OF VETERANS SERVICES
RAY WARWICK
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

Southern Regional Council, Inc.

ROOM 432, 63 AUBURN AVENUE, N. E. ATLANTA 3, GEORGIA

Field Agent (Wright)

A Council to attain, through research and action, the ideals and practices of equal opportunity for all peoples in the South.

May 7, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Service
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Avenue N.E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

I am continuing my visits to the out-of-the-way towns in Arkansas - Texarkana, Hope, and Arkadelphia.

Texarkana, as the name implies is a little bit of both Arkansas and Texas; a border town - rather, twin border towns. Most of the employment comes from the railroad yards and shops extending on either side of the border. I think the sign I read on one of the local buses best set forth the spirit of the people: "Pull For Texarkana or Pull Out."

Through some friends in Little Rock, I was introduced to Mr. Mitchell, Negro County Agent, who arranged for me to stay at the home of Dr. Lowe, the oldest of the town's four Negro Doctors.

In an informal talk with Mr. Mitchell, I found how the Negro fitted into the scheme of things: He had the usual poor schools, he did the usual "Negro Jobs" and he did the usual bickering behind closed doors. White people out number Negroes four to one. There is one Negro veteran on job training. In his travels over the country, Mr. Mitchell, County Agent, has encouraged twenty-one Negro veterans to take the farm training course. A class of these farm veterans has been started. Mr. Robert Mitchell, a veteran, and son of the County Agent, has been employed to supervise these fellows.

Mr. Robert Mitchell explained that under the circumstances he was doing the best he could. There isn't a vocational agricultural department for Negroes in this area - not even a work shop for the classes. The program for Negro veterans is qualified under the vocational agricultural department of the white high school.

Mr. E. A. Morris, district supervisor of education, is in charge of this program. I introduced myself to Mr. Morris at the high school and we had a long talk together. I told Mr. Morris that it was my opinion that soon or later these "just to fill the law" programs for Negro veterans controlled through white schools

solely to financially benefit the white school's program would meet with serious trouble from the Federal Government. He was quite concerned, and he went into details to explain to me how he was planning his program so that every penny received from the government in payment of tuition and expenses would be used only in the education of Negro veterans. At least I set him to thinking. The white veterans in this area have arranged "a deal" with the department of education and the local Veterans Administration office: white farm veterans apply for the Self Employment Compensation of $100.00 per month while their farms are not producing a profit; then when harvest season comes; they have made "arrangements" to get on the farm training program for the $90.00 or $65.00 per month - a clever idea; I wonder how it fits the law. Negro veterans haven't learned this yet. Mr. Morris gave me this information.

As usual I visited the Veterans Administration. Mr. C. A. Blackwood is the Contact Representative who handles most of the work in Texarkana - he knew only how to fill out a few forms. Mr. H. C. Lucas is the manager of the Veterans Administration's Sub-Regional Office here - he was willing to help all veterans as much as he could.I understood.

At the USES office, I got in to talk with the office manager, Mr. Clifford Edward - a young fellow "who has been around" and had a few clashes with the FEPC office. Mr. Edward knew everything in general terms - nothing specific.

I always get in to see the principals at the Negro high schools and I always ask to see all the classrooms and shops. Mr. M. H. Moseley is the principal of the high school here in Texarkana. In showing me around we passed from one room to another; each time I peeped in; smiled at the teachers and students; bowed my head politely; and passed on; across the campus from the main building we came to another part ofthe school, we entered, the principal opened the door, I peeped in - I saw a crowded room of small children, six and seven year olds sitting around crude tables in a room built for a NYA work shop with concrete floors and hardly enough light seeping through the frosted windows to know that the sun was shining; this classroom looked like a chicken coop on a dark rainy day; I saw no more, I came away.

On my last night in Texarkana, I was invited to speak to the Negro Chamber of Commerce. A group of businessmen and a few of the professionals. There were about thirty persons at the meeting; which was a good cross section of the community; a few preachers, cafe owners, barbers, one doctor, several teachers, a plumber, and even a farmer. Like most Negro organizations, this organization was trying to get a program. I talked on "New Opportunities for the Negro Community Through the Veterans Education Program." I kept my talk on a simple everyday basis, in other words, I talked their language. I hit the school problems I had seen around there. After explaining the opportunities for job training in the business establishments - the owner of a auto mechanic shop said that he would like to take at least two veterans as trainees. A veteran who had heard I was to speak had tipped in the back of the meeting. He rose and said that he was looking for a good job. The auto mechanic said, "Well boy, you've just found yourself a job." I had said to white officials in the town that I would ask this organization to invite them in to speak. I suggested this method to the Chamber of Commerce in keeping up with current opportunities. After my talk, the organization requested their president to visit all of these officials and to personally invite them to one of the meetings. The president said, "I'll go to their offices tomorrow morning." The situation in Texarkana is hopeful.

Hope, Arkansas - a truck farming center - called the "water melon center." The one large brickyard, the few saw mills, the shops and the surrounding truck farms

furnish most of the opportunities for making a living. The Negro gets all the jobs that nobody else wants. There is a high school somewhat better looking than is found in the usual small towns, The veterans program is handled through the office of a coordinator of veterans - two young white veterans who are still tied to the "apron strings of old lady Southern Tradition", Mr. R. R. Lewallen and Mr. Ray Lawrence are in charge of all veterans. I had a talk with these two men and I feel that they are sincerely working with Negro leaders in seeing that all veterans are informed about their opportunities. On job training, they have seventy white and five Negro veterans. With farm training they are doing somewhat better - there are thirty-five Negro veterans in the nearby communities. There is a vocational agricultural department in the Negro high school. The shop is another one of those "fulfil the law" setups, equipped with a chisel, a saw add about two hammers. Hope is making a worthwhile start - the situation in Hope is hopeful too.

Arkadelphia - a "has been" town - this has been a milling town. Now, only a few stores, a white college, and the surrounding farming communities furnish employment for the townsfolk. There are no Negro veterans on farm training although the Negro high school has had a vocational agricultural department for seven years. Mr. M. D. Ceaser, the vocational teacher explained to me that the fellows were interested only in drawing that $20.00 unemployment compensation. After seeing the lack of opportunities there for training and employment, I could well understand. I visited the Veterans Guidance Center at the white college and had a talk with the adviser. He hardly knew that there was a nearby Negro community. His office had very few contacts with Negro veterans. I have encouraged Mr. Ceaser to get a farm training program started. I feel efforts at job training in this town would do an injustice to the veterans and the purpose.

I am going to spend some time next week on trying to push the training school project along.

Best wishes to you and the staff.

Your friend,

Harry L. Wright

Harry L. Wright

- - - -

Harry L. Wright

RESOLUTIONS
ADOPTED BY
DELTA COUNCIL

ELEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING
CLEVELAND, MISSISSIPPI
MAY 8, 1946

* * * * *

Jere B. Nash, President

H. M. Trice
P. F. Williams
Vice-Presidents

C. P. Owen
Herbert Eustis
Vice Presidents

Frank R. McGeoy, Jr., Treasurer

ANTI-STRIKE

WHEREAS, the Delta Council of Mississippi is an organization of farmers, merchants, professional and other business men, representing in the main, small or "little business" in the eighteen Delta and part Delta Counties of the State, having a population of more than a half million people, and its objective is to preserve and promote the welfare of the people in these counties and in the state as a whole; to aid and assist them in the problems that affect their business and governmental affairs, by gathering and disseminating information relative thereto, and thereby keeping Delta people fully informed on all phases thereof; and

WHEREAS, Delta Council holds that an essential principle necessary to preserve the business interest and promote the general welfare, prosperity and happiness of the people it represents, as well as the people of the State and the Nation as a whole, is the principle of private initiative and free enterprise with full liberty and freedom of action of the individual in business and other activities; and

WHEREAS, in order to preserve and protect this essential principle and guarantee such freedom of action of the individual, it is imperative that the fundamentals of constitutional government, as designed and practiced by the founders of this government and the American people, until within recent years, and as the same is outlined and set out in the constitution of the United States and the several States of the Union, shall be maintained inviolate; and

WHEREAS, one of the fundamentals of that form of government is that every person shall be guaranteed equal protection of the law in the enjoyment of life, liberty and the ownership and use of property, which means that everyone shall be protected against unjust and unwarranted attempts against his life and injury to his person or property, and shall have the right of re-dress in the courts of the land when those rights are violated; and

WHEREAS, if this government is to survive it is necessary that these fundamental rights guaranteed to the people by the Constitution shall be preserved, protected and kept inviolate; and

WHEREAS, the right to work in order to earn a living for one's self and family is a natural and God-given right to man which governments are organized to protect against unwarranted transgression by ruthless, wilful men or groups; and

WHEREAS, the practices engaged in by certain labor unions and other minority groups, aided and abetted by federal law and persons high in governmental authority, are doing violence to the right to work, and denying to men the right to earn a living for themselves and families, except upon such terms and conditions as may be imposed by ruthless, selfish labor leaders who arbitrarily force their will upon helpless members of their unions, and upon millions of innocent people of the nation who are not members of unions; and

WHEREAS, through the manipulations of these ruthless leaders not only members of unions, but men desiring to work who are not members of unions, are deprived of the right to work because of many unwarranted, unnecessary and indefensible strikes accompanied by force and violence and intimidation against all who dare defy their orders, which said strikes have and are daily destroying business, retarding production, and resulting in the loss of billions of dollars in wealth, great

inconvenience and hardships to the people, damaging in every respect to the public interest, and threaten to destroy the economic stability of the country and the government itself; and to prevent such situations it is necessary that just and proper laws be enacted by the Congress of the United States prohibiting such practices which are responsible for such chaotic conditions; and

WHEREAS, the strikes existing today and those which have been called to take effect in the immediate future are paralyzing to business, industry, and the production of the necessities of life, and threaten the health and lives of the people of the Nation - an outrageous situation which should not be permitted to exist, and which is intolerable to a free people living under a government of just laws; a situation brought about as the result of discriminatory laws enacted by the Congress of the United States and so interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States as to vest in labor unions and labor leaders arbitrary, dictatorial powers never dreamed of being vested in even the government itself under our form of government as contemplated by the Constitution of the United States; laws grossly unjust and discriminatory in the interest of minority groups and which do violence to the most sacred rights and privileges of the overwhelming majority of the masses of the people of the United States, and which should be amended and revised so as to remove those unjust provisions and make labor unions and their leaders equally responsible under the law as other citizens of the United States now are, and prevent the repetition of the ruthless, un-American and destructive acts now being practiced by these groups against the best interests and welfare of all the American people and threatening to the very existence of the government itself; and

WHEREAS the Congress is now in session and ample power is vested in it and the President of the United States, which if used by them in the interest of the welfare of the whole people of the Nation instead of in the interest of a few minority groups, to relieve the country of these intolerable situations and prevent this recurrence:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delta Council of Mississippi at its Eleventh Annual Convention, that the President and the Congress of the United States, particularly the Senate, be and are hereby memorialized and urgently petitioned to immediately enact legislation to protect the laborer, employer, and the public against unwarranted encroachment upon their rights and personal liberties, and from the abuses of the practices hereinabove condemned, to the end that every man may be free to operate his business and work where and for whom he pleases under such terms and conditions as may be agreeable to employer and employee without interference on the part of outside persons; and that labor unions and labor leaders shall be made responsible under and amenable to law the same as all the balance of the American people.

THAT copies hereof be forwarded to the President of the United States and the presiding officers of the Senate and House of Representatives of the Congress, and to the press.

* * * *

MARGIN REQUIREMENTS

Be it resolved by Delta Council in its Eleventh Annual Meeting at Cleveland, Mississippi, on this the 8th day of May, 1946 A. D., that we strongly urge Congress to prohibit by law any governmental agency from prescribing or fixing margin requirements in any future exchange dealing in agricultural commodities; but if any, such authority be vested exclusively with the Secretary of Agriculture.

* * * * *

HARBOR DEVELOPMENT

Recognizing the urgency of adequate harbors in ports on the Mississippi River for the benefit of the Valley and to handle increasing trade and commerce, both national and international in scope;

Delta Council heartily approves of the action of the Corps of Engineers, U. S. Army, and of the plans for harbor projects at Memphis, Vicksburg and Natchez;

And Delta Council hereby memorializes this National Congress to make available adequate funds for the construction of these developmental harbors.

* * * * *

BRITISH LOAN

DELTA COUNCIL, an economic federation fairly representing opinion of six-hundred-thousand citizens of Yazoo-Mississippi Delta, an area that annually harvests a million bales of cotton on about the same number of acres, understands that credits to be extended Great Britain by contemplated loan will be used mostly for purchase by that country of American goods or in countries importing American products. We further understand this loan to be an attempt to remedy the old barter system that before the war placed countries of the world in a position where they could not trade with each other. Further, we understand the effect of this to be an outlet to the world for American goods, and to put England in a position to conduct business and export.

To maintain the economy of our people, England and the rest of the world should be in a position to purchase our cotton. It would be costly to the cotton South for international trade to be forced into channels that existed prior to the war. Therefore, we unhesitatingly recommend to your Committee that proper and necessary credits be extended to England as suggested by the State Department. We are not too concerned about rate of interest and details. The big problem of the cotton producing area of the United States, especially the Deep South, is the unfortunate future position of cotton with reference to world prices.

* * * * *

COUNTY EDUCATION PROGRAM

BE IT RESOLVED that the State Legislature be commended for legislation passed at the 1946 session which authorized and appropriated funds for the advancement of negro education in Mississippi and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the attention of the Boards of Supervisors and the Superintendents of Education of the Delta counties be called to this legislation and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these Boards of Supervisors and Superintendents of Education be urged to institute such proceedings as will effectuate the purposes of this legislation for the benefit of the large negro population of the Delta as well as the entire citizenship.

* * * * *

HIGH SCHOOL CONSOLIDATION

That Delta Council support any and all county endeavors to effect consolidation of rural schools into one or more large central units, depending on total enrollment; and

That Delta Council urge the passage of such legislation as may be introduced to assist in the construction and equipping of these buildings insofar as this legislation, on a Federal and State basis, shall recognize the principle of segregation in Southern schools.

* * * * *

PRODUCTION DEFICIENCY STUDY

That some Institution of Higher Learning, Mississippi State College suggested, prepare for the state a chart and studied report of deficiency production within Mississippi as a guide to Mississippi farmers in planning their farm operations. Such study would provide information as to what agricultural commodities are being imported in considerable volume and wherein lie opportunities for diversified and expanded farm production.

* * * * *

FLOOD CONTROL

In accordance with precedent, Delta Council again endorses without present reservation, plans and projects of flood control and navigation for the head-water, backwater and main stream areas of the Yazoo-Mississippi Valley as set forth by U. S. Army Engineers; and

That the above named Corps be supported in its efforts to bring to completion as rapidly as possible all above defined construction authorized and contemplated; and

That wholehearted endorsement be given to the policy defined by Hon. Will M. Whittington, Chairman, House Flood Control Committee, that such work be given priority in any "made-work" program adopted by the Federal Government to alleviate any unemployment crisis that might confront this nation; and

That special tribute be given to the work of the Mississippi River Commission.

* * * * *

COTTON TIRE CORD

That the National Cotton Council of America be commended for its untiring and fruitful investigation into the use of cotton versus rayon in the manufacture of tire cord; and

That whatever support is necessary and desirable to a continuance of this investigation be given by Delta Council and its members since greater utilization of cotton in tire cord is an expanded market for the Delta's principal cash crop; and

That all work of National Cotton Council directed to the greater use of cotton be given active support.

* * * * *

COMMITTEE WORK

That in accordance with suggestions, wishes, and desires of constituent members; and in the interest of 1946-47 program of work for Delta Council;

That the following Committees consider immediately following items of work and educational programs:

Advisory Research Committee: Expanded membership.

Recommend program of research on control and elimination of Johnson grass.

Bale Identification Association: Identification through a compress rather than a bale tag.

Health Committee: Cooperate with all social, Church and civic groups to combat juvenile delinquency.

Urge early detection and correction of physical defects in pre-school children.

Participate in educational program sponsoring maternal and infant welfare.

Urge community, county, groups-of-counties, and/or district low-cost hospitals and hospitalization for low-income groups.

Agricultural Committee: Participate in education program for better care and protection of farm machinery.

Urge immediate construction of more farm machines.

Labor Committee: Investigate continuance of labor cost ceilings.
Study problem of obtaining more labor for area.

Educational Policy Committee: Further study problem of Negro education.

* * * * * *

JERE B. NASH

That Jere Boyle Nash be given an unanimous vote of thanks by members of Delta Council for splendid service rendered during 1945-46 as President of the organization; and

That retiring President Nash be fully recognized for his wisdom, vision, and industry in performance of duties.

* * * * *

W. M. KETHLEY

Delta Council expresses to W. M. Kethley, President, Delta State Teachers College and all those of his staff and student body who have assisted in preparing for and conducting this Eleventh Annual Meeting of Delta Council, May 8, 1946. Mr. Kethley, who served as first president of Delta Council, has for several years been host to this annual convention and his courtesy, willingness, and cooperation in handling this convention, as well as other loyal services to Delta Council, merits the personal gratitude of every member of Delta Council.

Delta Council wishes to thank all persons responsible for making available facilities for holding this meeting; for the preparing and serving of the barbecue luncheon; and for the cordial and genial hospitality enjoyed here today.

A meeting such as this entails a great deal of work on the part of many persons and to all of those, whom we know to be too numerous to mention, Delta Council again this year thanks you for a good meeting and a good day.

* * * * *

PAUL D. WILLIAMS, RICHMOND
PRESIDENT
P. B. YOUNG, NORFOLK
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT
FRANK W. SPENCER, SAVANNAH
SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT
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Southern Regional Council, Inc.
ROOM 432, 63 AUBURN AVENUE, N. E. ATLANTA 3, GEORGIA

A Council to attain, through research and action, the ideals and practices of equal opportunity for all peoples in the South.

11 May, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Ave. N. E.

Dear Dr.Mitchell:

I have spent quite a bit of my time this week "lining up" people with favorable attitudes toward the relocation center project.

I had an off-the-record talk with Mr. Ralph Jones, State Commissioner of Education, who expressed a great deal of interest in the project but honestly said his office couldn't do anything toward aquiring the project other than to act as consulants at the request of the Board of Trustees of the college.

My purpose in talking with Mr. Jones was to "sound" out his attitude and to find what influence his office could exert one way or the other. Mr. McCruistion, the Director of Negro Education has just received a letter from Congressman Brooks Hays stating that he was favorable toward seeing the project go to the State College for Negroes. Mr. McCruistion was quite concerned about the interest of Congressman Hays. Mr. McCruition is clever enough to always play near "home base", yet sincere enough to pass along helpful hints. Tuesday, a committee of the Board of Trustees of the State College is meeting to discuss some emergency needs of the college - recommendations from this committee go directly to the Board of Trustees for their consideration and action. Mr. McCruistion said if President Davis included this recommendation of the relocation project in his report to the committee; we'd get the idea immediately to the right people with less red tape.

I got in touch with President Davis and whispered these facts in his ears. Mr. Davis is to call Rev. Paul Galloway, a Board Member, who is a friend of both the Governor and Senator Fulbright, and ask Rev. Galloway to request the support of these officials.

My American Legion friend, Mr. Copeland, Assistant Adjutant of the State Department of the American Legion has an appointment Wednesday with the Adjutant General whose support of the project he promised: "I'll get". This is how the situation stands. My job is to keep the issue warm - and I have learned well the art of worrying people.

Hot Spring - city of the springs. Hot Spring is different from any of Arkansas that I've seen. To its doors come the body-worn and mentally-torn souls from all over the world. Hot Spring is different; its people are different in their thinking and in their living. Tourist trade is the life of the city. The citizens are a cross section of all America. Their way of thinking has been toned to fit the thinking of people who come from everywhere. This is a "bread and butter proposition".

Here's how the Negro fits into the picture: Hotels, bath houses, tourist camps are the main businesses. The managers, accountants, the cashiers and the rest of the "white collar" jobs are filled by the White People, but the bell hops, the waiters, the bath house attendants and similar jobs are filled by Negroes. This is in keeping with the effort to maintain a "Southern Atmosphere". Most of the jobs in these businesses come under the heading of "Negro Jobs". The salaries are lowest for these jobs but the tips from the rich and near-rich guest bring the earning of one of these "Negro Jobs" far above even the salary of a manager of one of these exclusive hostries.

An example of how this situation affects the thinking of Negroes toward education and employment is: The principal of the only Negro High School resigned his job to accept a "position" as a bath house attendant.

As usual, I visited the high school, a modern building, fairly well equiped. Mr. James Henderson is principal. There are three veterans enrolled in the regular high school work. Mr. Henderson related a number of methods school authorities had used in trying to encourage Negro Veterans to take some of the training courses, but the lure of good tips from the bath house and hotel jobs discouraged any kind of trade courses. In this city, there is a demand for tradesmen in the building trade.

Down at the USES offices, I got in to see the Veterans Employment Representative, Mr. Guy T. Knox. When I walked into his office, I could readily see that he was annoyed by my coming in to see him. The first question he asked was: "What are you investigating". I told him that investigating was a bad word, and it did more harm than any good. He liked this statement rightoff. I saw that he wanted to discuss race relations, so I told him all he wanted to hear. I told him that men like him held the strings to good race relations in the South; I explained how better jobs for Negroes helped to better race relations. I told him how the "grapevine" carried news over the back fences of how some good fair-minded White People down at the USES offices had helped John Smith, son of Susie Smith (wash woman for Mayor Thomas) to get a good job because he had proven that he was a good citizen by helping to fight the war successfully. He called in the office manager and asked me to say my little speech over. I knew all along that his question 'What can we do to help out', was coming.

The principal of the school had informed me that the Alcola Company was building a large mill nearby, so I had an answer ready for Mr. Knox. I asked him to find at least five good, steady-going, intelligent, Negro Veterans and see that these fellows got some good jobs that weren't traditionally performed by Negroes in the new plant; to watch these fellows closely, give them some interest and a little "moral support", then watch how much good will be done. Mr. Knox said: "Wright, I have a Negro Veteran who came in to my office, and said he would accept a job with a contractor until he could get a better job that his education of two years college qualified him to get. I am going to see that this veteran gets one of the best jobs at this plant - yes, I am going to try it".

At the veteran contact office, I talked with Mr. Owin F. Coombe, the contact officer. I explained my mission; my organization, and mentioned that I was one of the Southern fellows working with veterans down here; (all of this conversation was carried on while I was still standing - I was never invited to have a seat in his office after waiting to talk with hime for about forty-five minutes.) Mr. Knox knew nothing at all about how Negro Veterans were being served by the Veterans Administration.

In explaining his view points, Mr. Knox said: "I was born in the North, but I have been down here working, but I don't believe in this mixing - if I had a pure bred herd of cattle, I wouldn't mix them with the other kind". Straightforwardedly I told him that his social views didn't matter a "tinkers dam" to me and all other good thinking Negroes as long as we got fair opportunities for education and employment through officers like him who was paid by all of us to help out in the matter. I know what kind of sympathetic understanding of his problem a Negro Veteran will get from Mr. Knox's office.

Best wishes to you and the staff.

Your Friend

Harry L. Wright

HARRY L. WRIGHT

- -

PAUL D. WILLIAMS, RICHMOND
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A Council to attain, through research and action, the ideals and practices of equal opportunity for all peoples in the South.

May 14, 1946

Mr. Harry L. Wright
c/o Urban League
914 Gaines Street
Little Rock, Arkansas

Dear Harry:

As the Council receives all its money from private and Foundation contributions itself, it has never, so far as I know, made any contributions to other organizations. I wish we could help the Urban League at Little Rock, but I just don't think a check could issue for that purpose.

I turned over your papers to the people in the Retraining and Reemployment Administration. By This time they have about committed themselves to taking on a principal Negro advisor and I don't get the feeling that there was much likelihood of their picking you up. So let's rest as we were - comfortably.

Oughtn't you to be coming back in to Atlanta before so long? No particular hurry, but I would enjoy talking with you about what has happened.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Field Agent

May 14, 1946

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c/o Urban League
914 Gaines Street
Little Rock, Arkansas

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George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

SOUTHERN REGIONAL COUNCIL, Inc.
63 AUBURN AVENUE, N. E.
ATLANTA 3, GEORGIA

May 8, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Ave. N.E.
Atlanta, George

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

The Urban League of Greater Little Rock has just begun their annual drive for members. You know how these community organizations have to raise so much money to supplement the sum supplied by the local community chest for their annual budget.

The Urban League has been very kind and useful to me in my work over here. I have had the use of their office and I've had their whole hearted cooperation. Personally, I'm telling one of their contributing membership cards. The annual memberships are $1.00; the contributing memberships $3-5; and the sustaining memberships are any amount over $5.00.

I think it would be a worthwhile gesture if our organization would make some kind of contribution to their membership drive.

Your Friend

Harry S. Wright

Field agent

May 1, 1946

Mr. Harry L. Wright
c/o Urban League
914 Gaines Street
Little Rock, Arkansas

Dear Mr. Wright:

We have only two of the enclosed booklet.

After you have read it, won't you please return it to us, so that we can send it along to one of the other field agents?

Sincerely,

Anna Warwick

Field Agent

April 24, 1946

Mr. Harry L. Wright
c/o Urban League
914 Gaines Street
Little Rock, Arkansas

Dear Harry:

That's a grand scheme you have about the Relocation Centers. I do hope you can push it through. I have just talked long distance with Brooks Hays, who is now Congressman from the Fifth District of Arkansas (You remember he used to be with FSA) and asked his advice. He said he would get in touch with the Surplus Property people Friday, and ask them to hold Jerome and McGhee for the possible development of this use. He said he would work on it in other ways too, but that of course it would have to be a bit qt, as that district is not his.

Also, you should get the matter laid before the Rev. Mr. Paul Galloway, at Fayetteville, a Methodist minister (white) on, or lately on, the Board for Pine Bluff State College. He could suggest who would help, and he is influential himself.

I don't know at all if anything will turn up with the Retraining and Reemployment Administration. I shall be in Washington May 1st, and will take your papers to acquaintances there to see whether they are interested. What you are doing is extremely valuable, and I am doubtful whether what this would offer would be as useful, but I will balance it, and if it seems to me a chance for you to be more useful, I will push you for it.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

On the letter to Harry Wright, tell HW that I talked w. Congressman Hays, who said he would get in touch with the surplus property people Friday, and ask tem to hold ~~that~~ Jerome and McGhee for the possible development of this use.

Brooks Hays will work on it in other ways, too. This will have to be a bit qt, as of course I, GSM realize, that the district s not Hays's.

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BUILDINGS ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER

Barracks, Evacuee	599
Barracks, School	24
Miscellaneous Quarters	9
Lavatory & Laundries	36
Mess Halls & Kitchens	36
Recreation Halls, Evacuees	36
M. P. Buildings - Quarters)	
M. P. Bldgs, Miscellaneous)	12
Hospital Buildings	17
Administrative Group - Bldgs.	13
Post Office	1
Internal Security	1
Warehouses	21
Fire Station	1
Watch Towers	8
Auditorium & Gymnasium	1
School Library, Shop & Home Ec. Bldg.	3
Apts. Buildings	15
Recreation Bldg., WRA Personnel	1
Mule Barn & Shed	2
Warehouses	7
Tool Houses	23
Farm Tenant Houses	4
Gasoline Station	1
Ice Storage Bldg.	1
Motor Pool Office	1
Gate House	1
Shed with Room	1
Privy Building	1
Portable Bldg.	1
	677

500
13 miles from the Lake

BUILDINGS ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER

Barracks - Evacuee Apts.

Item 1	369
Item 2	30
	399

Barracks Evacuee Apts. used for school Purposes

Item 3	3
Item 4	1
Item 5	2
Item 6	6
Item 7	2
Item 8	2
Item 9	1
Item 10	1
Item 11	1
Item 12	4
Item 13	1
	24

Item 14	Old Men's Infirmary	1	
Item 15	Co-op Store & Beauty Shop	1	
Item 16	Relocation Office	1	
Item 17	Community Welfare	1	
Item 18	Administrative Quarters	4	
Item 19	Administrative Personnel Qtrs.	1	
		9	
Item 20	Lavatory & Laundry	33	
Item 21	Lavatory & Laundry	1	Used by School
Item 22	Lavatory & Laundry	1	Ironing Room
Item 23	Lavatory & Laundry	1	Lard & Soap Room
		36	
Item 24	Mess & Kitchen Evacuee	33	
Item 25	Mess & Kitchen Evacuee	1	Tofu & Miso Factory
Item 26	Mess & Kitchen Evacuee	2	Used by School
		36	

Item 27	Recreation Hall Evacuee	2	
Item 28	Recreation Hall Evacuee	1	Wood Working Shop
Item 29	Recreation Hall Evacuee	1	Wood Carving School
Item 30	Recreation Hall Evacuee	1	Christian Church
Item 31	Recreation Hall Evacuee	1	Buddhist Church
Item 32	Recreation Hall Evacuee	1	7 Day Adventist Church
Item 33	Recreation Hall Evacuee	1	Girl Scout
Item 34	Recreation Hall Evacuee	3	
Item 35	Recreation Hall Evacuee	1	Friendly Christian Church
Item 36	Recreation Hall Evacuee	1	Community Activities
Item 37	Recreation Hall Evacuee	1	Recreation Purposes
Item 38	Recreation Hall Evacuee	1	Catholic Church
Item 39	Recreation Hall Evacuee	1	Y. W. C. A.
Item 40	Recreation Hall Evacuee	1	Recreation Purposes
Item 41	Recreation Hall Evacuee	1	"Go & Shogi Room"
Item 42	Recreation Hall Evacuee	1	Boy Scouts
Item 43	Recreation Hall Evacuee	2	Recreational Purposes
Item 44	Recreation Hall Evacuee	1	Friendly Christian Church
Item 45	Recreation Hall Evacuee	1	Recreational Purposes
Item 46	Recreation Hall Evacuee	1	Ginza Room
Item 47	Recreation Hall Evacuee	1	Co-op Dry Goods & Shoe Store
Item 48	Recreation Hall Evacuee	4	Recreational Purposes
Item 49	Recreation Hall Evacuee	1	Buddhist Church
Item 50	Recreation Hall Evacuee	1	Teen Age Club
Item 51	Recreation Hall Evacuee	1	Recreational Purposes
Item 52	Recreation Hall Evacuee	1	Recreational Purposes
Item 53	Recreation Hall Evacuee	1	Landscape Office & Storage

Item 54	Recreational Hall Evacuee	1	Gym & Boxing
Item 55	Recreational Hall Evacuee	1	Shoe Repair Shop
		36	
Item 56	Administrative Hqtrs. M. P.	1	
Item 57	Officers Quarters M. P.	1	
Item 58	Dispensary Bldg., M. P.	1	
Item 59	Barracks M. P.	5	
Item 60	Barracks M. P.	1	Remodeled into 5 Apts.
		7	
Item 61	Garage M. O.	1	
Item 62	Lavatory M. P.	1	
Item 63	Guard House M. P.	1	
Item 64	Mess Hall & Kitchen M. P.	1	
Item 65	Post Exchange M. P.	1	
		5	

Hospital Group

Item 66	Hospital Adm. Bldg.	1	
Item 67	Doctor's Quarters	1	
Item 68	Nurses Quarters	1	
Item 69	Obstetrical Ward	1	
Item 70	Children's Ward	1	
Item 71	Hospital Std. Ward	5	
Item 72	Hospital Isolation Ward	1	
Item 73	Morgue & Disinfecting Bldg.,	1	
Item 74	Hosp. Warehouse Bldg.	2	
Item 75	Mess Hall & Kitchen	1	
Item 76	Surgery Bldg.,	1	
Item 77	Outpatients Bldg.	1	

Item 78	Boiler House & Cold Storage	1	
Item 79	Laundry Bldg.	1	
Item 80	Enclosed walks		1147 L. Ft.
Item 81	Covered Walks		229 L. Ft.
		17	
Item 82	Adm. Bldg., WRA Offices	1	
Item 83	Adm. Bldg., WRA Offices	1	
Item 84	Stord Bldg., Adm. Group	1	
Item 85	Dormitory WRA Pers.	4	
Item 86	" " "	1	
Item 87	Recreation Bldg., Adm. Persl	1	Laundry
Item 88	Mess Hall & Kitchen	1	
Item 89	Shop Bldg.,	1	Parts Room & Office
Item 90	Garage Bldg (Black Smith Shop)	1	
Item 91	Adm. Group Warehouse	1	Remodeled into office
		13	
Item 92	Post Office	1	
Item 93	Receiving Bldg., (Internal Security)	1	
Item 94	Warehouses	15	
Item 95	Warehouses used for Property Control Office & for Storage	1	
Item 96	Warehouse (Office & Refrig. ~~storage~~ shop)	1	
Item 97	Warehouse (Co-op Storage & Refrig.)	1	
Item 98	Warehouse Storage	1	
Item 99	Warehouse (Mess unit Offices ' Storage)	1	
Item 100	Warehouse Refrigeration	1	

Item 101	Fire Station	1
Item 102	Watch Tower	8
Item 103	Auditorium & Gymnasium	1
Item 104	Library Bldg.	1
Item 105	Shop Bldg. - School	1
Item 106	Home Economics School	1
Item 107	Apts. Bldg. WRA Personnel	9
Item 108	Apts. Bldg. WRA Personnel	6
Item 109	Recreation Bldg. WRA Personnel	4
Item 110	Mule Barn	1
Item 110A	Shed at Mule Barn	1
Item 111	Warehouse	1
Item 112	"	1
Item 113	"	1
Item 114	"	1
Item 115	Warehouse - Electric Shop	1
Item 116	Warehouse - Plumbing Shop	1
Item 117	Warehouse -	1
Item 118	Tool House	1
Item 119	Farm Teenant House	1
Item 120	" "	1
Item 121	" "	1
Item 122	Tool House	1
Item 123	Farm Tenant House	1
Item 124	Tool House	1
Item 125	"	1
Item 126	" "	1

Item 127	Ice Storage Bldg.	1
Item 128	Gasoline Station	1
Item 129	Tool House	6
Item 130	Motor Pool Dispatcher's Office	1
Item 131	Gate House	1
Item 132	Shed with Room	1
Item 133	Privy Bldg.	1
Item 134	Portable Bldg.	1
Item 135	Tool House	1
Item 136	Tool House	1
Item 137	" "	1
Item 138	" "	1
Item 139	" "	1
Item 140	" "	1
Item 141	" "	1
Item 142	" "	1
Item 143	" "	1
Item 144	" "	1
Item 145	" "	1
Item 146	"	1
Item 147	Automatic Fire Alarm System	(1)
		93
	Total	677

THE URBAN LEAGUE OF GREATER LITTLE ROCK

914 Gaines Street Phone 6592

Little Rock, Arkansas

May 21, 1946

Mr. Harry L. Wright
914 Gaines
Little Rock, Arkansas

Dear Member:

The Urban League of Greater Little Rock acknowledges with appreciation receipt of your membership contribution for the current year. Your name has been entered on our membership list and the certificate of membership is enclosed.

Your goodwill and support mean much to the community and League. We are grateful for your interest, and sincerely trust that this support and cooperation will grow with the Urban League in its efforts to improve community welfare.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Irene Shropshire, chairman
Urban League Membership Committee

Clifford E. Minton

Clifford E. Minton
Executive Secretary

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION

1201

(15)

A. N. WILLIAMS, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

JOSEPH L. EGAN, PRESIDENT

SYMBOLS

DL = Day Letter

NL = Night Letter

LC = Deferred Cable

NLT = Cable Night Letter

Ship Radiogram

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination

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HARRY WRIGHT=

CARE URBAN LEAGUE 914 GAINES ST LROCK=

WILL TRY TO ARRIVE IN ATLANTA JUNE SEVENTH=

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NO. 6592

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TIME

BY

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

Field Agent

May 28, 1946

Mr. Harry L. Wright
914 Gaines Street
Little Rock, Arkansas

Dear Harry:

Aren't you tired of traveling all over Arkansas by now? You are doing a lot of good, but I just wonder that you can hold up with it.

When you get really tired, come on in to Atlanta, and we will talk over where to go and what to do next.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

PAUL D. WILLIAMS, RICHMOND
PRESIDENT
P. B. YOUNG, NORFOLK
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT
FRANK W. SPENCER, SAVANNAH
SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT
CARTER WESLEY, HOUSTON
THIRD VICE-PRESIDENT
CHARLES S. JOHNSON, NASHVILLE
CHAIRMAN, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
GUY B. JOHNSON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
HAROLD L. TRIGG
ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
EMILY H. CLAY
SECRETARY-TREASURER
GEORGE S. MITCHELL
DIRECTOR OF VETERANS SERVICES
RAY WARWICK
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

Southern Regional Council, Inc.
ROOM 432, 63 AUBURN AVENUE, N. E. ATLANTA 3, GEORGIA

A Council to attain, through research and action, the ideals and practices of equal opportunity for all peoples in the South.

May 22, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Avenue, N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

I have continued my trips this week to the small outlaying towns. Fort Smith - third largest town in Arkansas; this is an industrial town; more than 145 different mills and factories are located here. The surrounding farm area is a truck farming section. This town lies on the Arkansas - Oklahoma border and the population is a mixture of Indians, white people and Negroes from most of the western states. Both white and Negro leaders claim that this is the most liberal town in Arkansas and in the south. There are only approximately three thousand Negroes living in this town.

Unusual was the fact that I could hardly tell where Negroes lived in the community; its an old town and I found Negroes living in every section of the city. There is no designated "Negro Districts." Only one half block of a business street was occupied only by Negroes. There is no Negro Chamber of Commerce; recently the White Chamber of Commerce invited several outstanding Negro businessmen to become members with a promise that Negro members wouldn't be discriminated against in the organization. These Negro businessmen have paid their twenty-five dollar membership fees and are standing by to see what happens next.

In this town, I found most of the streets paved (covered with brick), and only a few run-down houses appearing here and there.

At the Negro high school, I found a well-kept fairly well equipped building, This is the first town (with exception of Pine Bluff) in Arkansas where I have found a first-rate school library under the supervision of a full-time trained librarian. The public library has been combined with the school library; this makes a good arrangement for both the community and the school.

This school also had a good trade shop, fairly well equipped under the supervision of a veteran who has just returned. There are only three veterans on-job training yet; but I feel confident that Mr. A. H. Miller, the trades teacher, will

really push this program along as soon as he gets settled.

At the sub-regional office of the Veterans Administration, I arranged a conference with Mr. William A. Baxter, Assistant Manager, and Contact Representative. Mr. Baxter was one of these matter-of-fact sort of fellows whom you could readily see that he knew his business. He was well informed on how well Negroes were not taking advantage of their educational opportunities; he was concerned why Negroes didn't come in his office very much for information. I had to talk race relations; after we finished our conference, Mr. Baxter asked if I would talk to his whole staff. He called in his staff; about ten officials; we all sat in his office round-table fashion, (I was unusually introduced and referred to always as Mr. Wright) and I related my findings in Arkansas and suggested how they could help Negro veterans. This group was like most intelligent white people; they wanted me to talk about race relations. I did the job.

At the USES office, I talked with the Veterans Employment Representative, Mr. A. Threlkeld. Mr. Threlkeld was one of these fast talking around-the-bush beaters, who was skilled in the art of evading specific answers. However, I found the same old story in USES office referrals of Negro veterans only to the menial jobs. A few Negro veterans are getting good jobs on-their-own.

I still have the conditions among Negro veterans that I found in Helena on my mind. The Contact Officer, Mr. McKnight, had promised that he would contact a few of the leading Negro citizens whom I had suggested, and try to work out some program that would help Negroes get started. I promised that I would come back to take another look.

In Helena, I again went in to talk with Mr. McKnight about his work among Negro veterans. He still hadn't even met any of the Negroes in the town who could help. His excuses this time were as ample as in the beginning. I again made the rounds of the town to find the same old situation as before.

I have a plan or two "on ice" for attacking this situation.

Best wishes to you and the staff.

Your friend,

Harry L. Wright

HARRY L. WRIGHT

May 28, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Avenue, N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

May 22, I received the expense check forwarded to me from your office on May 10. Enclosed is the envelope, properly addressed yet it was mis-sent to Long Beach, California as shown on the back of the envelope.

I am sorry that it caused this trouble. I have arranged my train reservations so as to arrive in Atlanta Monday afternoon at approximately 1:30 p.m. Please hold all mail for me in Atlanta until I arrive.

Best wishes to you and the staff.

Your friend,

HARRY L. WRIGHT

Enc.

May 28, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Avenue, N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia.

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

In our telephone conversation, I mentioned that I had been invited to talk at the regular monthly meeting of the Interracial Commission. Enclosed you'll find a copy of my talk. I said the right things to this very fine group of the best people of both races.

The Commission voted to become an affiliate of the Southern Regional Council, Inc. before I made my talk; after I finished talking and answering questions for forty-five minutes; one of the business men (white) said if I was the kind of fellow representing the SRC and if my work represented a part of the SRC's program then all the members of the Commission would gladly join the SRC. I have promised this group that I would furnish them with a concise report of my observations.

My "country town" visited this week was Searcy - in White County. A veteran whom I found "hanging around" the bus station summed up the situation with Negro veterans this way: "All we can get in this town is that twenty dollars a week unemployment money, there aren't many colored here; I've never seen a place where the white dig the ditches and handle the bricks and morter, and sweep the floors; it used to be a time when they would go looking for a colored man to do this work, not now, talking about White County - this is sure enough White County."

After taking my look around, I concluded that this was "sure enough White County". There are about eight-hundred Negroes living in this town; they comprise almost White County's total Negro population. There is a good elementary junior high school, fairly well equipped. The principal, Mrs. Mary W. Wilson, is not only a good principal but an effective community leader; at the school's closing program, she invited the town's veterans to attend and invited me to talk about my work on the program.

Mrs. Wilson arranged a conference for me with Mr. W. L. Mason, superintendant of schools. Mr. Mason was one of the typical school officials who "just hadn't had the time to work out something for our colored veterans, but, I will gladly help them out in any way I can". There was not even one Negro veteran on any kind of training program.

At the program of the closing of the school; the superintendant, the board of education members, their families and a large number of white people were present. I took this opportunity to compare what Negro veterans were

doing in Hope (a town about the size of Searcy) with what they were not doing here. I gave what I call my "Fussing Talk" directed at Negroes. I knew the real story. I didn't know that the Veterans Contact Officer was sitting in the audience.

After my talk, the superintendant, all the members of the board, several white citizens came up shook hands and patted me on the head, and said they would be glad to help these "colored boys" to get to doing something.

The next morning, I went in for a conference with Mr. Edd L. West, Veterans Contact Officer; when I started talking to his secretary, he called out from his office that he could see me right away - he came out of his office with his hand out-stretched, and said that he had heard my talk last night and was right with me in what I said.

Mr. West explained that he had been trying to give a push to some kind of training program for Negro veterans through Mr. Mason's office; but Mr. Mason had always seemed too busy to get anything started for Negroes. Confidentially he admitted to me that Mr. Mason had too many "irons in the fire" to do a good job with the veterans training program.

I recommended to concerned officials that a meeting of Negro veterans be called by the principal with all the officials attending. I suggested that the few who were interested be worked into the farm training and that no job-training for Negroes be attempted there, rather, all Negro veterans interested in a trade be sent off to a good school.

Best wishes to you and the staff.

Your friend,

HARRY L. WRIGHT

May 27, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Avenue, N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

Enclosed is a copy of the invitation and the program of the Joint Session of the Southeastern and Southwestern Fire-side Chats that Giles sent me.

You are aquainted with the Fire-side Chats. I have been requested to work as a discussion leader on the discussion of veterans problems. I haven't replied to the request, yet. We'll discuss the idea when I see you.

Your friend,

HARRY L. WRIGHT

Enclosure

May 28, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Avenue, N.E.
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Best wishes to you and the staff.

Your friend,

Harry L. Wright

HARRY L. WRIGHT

May 28, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Avenue, N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

Enclosed is a copy of the invitation and the program of the Joint Session of the Southeastern and Southwestern Fireside Chats that Giles sent me.

You are acquainted with the Fireside Chats. I have been requested to work as a discussion leader on the discussion of veterans' problems. I haven't replied to the request, yet. We'll discuss the idea when I see you.

Your friend,

Harry L. Wright

HARRY L. WRIGHT

Enc.

Field agent

May 31, 1946

Mr. Harry L. Wright
c/o Urban League
914 Gaines Street
Little Rock, Arkansas

Dear Harry:

Giles Hubert has probably written you that he has got you on his program for the "Fireside Chats" this summer for the date of July 13th.

You are listed as a discussion leader for the afternoon meeting. Apparently it is a joint meeting of the Southeast and and Southwest "Fireside Chats". Place: Gulfside Association, Waveland, Miss. Date: July 11, 12, 13, and 14.

It is okay with me for you to go, and we will of course cover your expense.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM: w

P. S. We are also asking Marcus Gunter to go. If you need any more dope, write to Giles Hubert, Fisk University, Nashville, Tenn.

May 1946 Period
Arkansas Office
(City and State)

STATE SUMMARY
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
U. S. EMPLOYMENT SERVICE
REPORT OF PLACEMENTS

Form ES-212 (Rev. 1-45)
Budget Bureau No. 44-R573.

A. AGRICULTURAL PLACEMENTS

Total (01-07) I	Agriculture and similar services (07) II	Farms (01) III	TYPE OF FARM ACTIVITY: Grain (011) IV	Cotton (0121) V	Sugar (0122) VI	Tobacco (0123) VII	Fruit and tree nut (013) VIII	Vegetable (014) IX	Dairy (015) X	Livestock and poultry (016) XI	Hay and peanut (017) XII	Nurseries and greenhouses (018) XIII	General (0191) XIV	Crop specialty n. e. c. (0199) XV
15926	--	15926	5	161			11633	3794	10	12			195	115

B. NONAGRICULTURAL PLACEMENTS

Total I	Short time II	Women III	Non-White IV	W. W. II veterans V	Line number	Classification VI	MAJOR OCCUPATIONAL GROUPS: Professional and mgr. VII	Clerical and sales VIII	Service IX	Skilled X	Semi-skilled XI	Unskilled and other XII
						INDUSTRY						
6553	505	1993	2124	2161	1	Total (08-99)	66	522	1350	478	648	3489
7	2	--	1	3	2	Forestry and fishing (08-09)	--	--	2	2	--	3
24	--	--	12	16	3	Mining (10-14)	--	--	--	7	3	14
1452	38	6	429	636	4	Contract construction (15-17)	5	12	2	210	70	1153
1975	60	640	377	648	5	Total manufacturing (19-39)	8	46	15	60	356	1490
9	--	2	--	7	6	Ordnance and accessories (19)	--	2	--	5	2	--
429	54	285	17	69	7	Food and kindred products (20)	1	11	4	3	19	391
--	--	--	--	--	8	Tobacco manufacturers (21)	--	--	--	--	--	--
24	--	12	--	9	9	Textile mill products (22)	--	--	--	1	6	17
192	--	175	--	14	10	Apparel and related products (23)	1	--	6	--	141	44
581	--	2	178	262	11	Lumber and tbr. basic prod. (24)	1	4	--	24	96	456
214	3	26	55	78	12	Furn. and fin. lumber prod. (25)	1	2	1	5	27	178
143	--	57	46	73	13	Paper and allied prod. (26)	--	--	--	--	3	140
9	--	1	1	9	14	Printing, Pub. and allied (27)	4	--	--	4	--	1
20	--	6	--	4	15	Chemicals (28)	--	4	--	1	1	14
8	--	6	--	2	16	Products of pet. and coal (29)	--	8	--	--	--	--
--	--	--	--	--	17	Rubber products (30)	--	--	--	--	--	--
41	--	28	--	4	18	Leather and its products (31)	--	3	1	--	9	28
92	--	2	34	28	19	Stone, clay, and glass prod. (32)	--	1	--	3	5	83
29	--	11	10	9	20	Iron and steel and their prod. (33)	--	5	--	3	3	18
--	--	--	--	--	21	Railroad equipment (341)	--	--	--	--	--	--
--	--	--	--	--	22	Aircraft and parts (342)	--	--	--	--	--	--
--	--	--	--	--	23	Ship and boat building & rep. (343)	--	--	--	--	--	--
--	--	--	--	--	24	Other trans. equip. (344-349)	--	--	--	--	--	--
121	3	14	30	58	25	Nonferrous metals and prod. (35)	--	3	2	3	17	96
1	--	1	--	--	26	Electrical machinery (36)	--	1	--	--	--	--
4	--	--	--	2	27	Metalworking mach. (374)	--	--	--	2	2	--
10	--	10	--	--	28	Other mach. (37 except 374)	--	--	--	--	10	--
44	--	1	5	19	29	Autos and auto equip. (38)	--	1	1	6	14	22
4	--	1	1	1	30	Miscellaneous mfg. (39)	--	1	--	--	1	2
46	11	--	13	28	31	Interstate railroads (40)	--	--	14	2	4	26
213	23	18	71	93	32	Other public utilities (41-49)	--	23	4	18	21	147
851	45	321	215	261	33	Wholesale and retl. trade (50-59)	14	214	307	47	86	183
53	---	28	16	11	34	Finance, ins., and real estate (60-67)	1	34	7	--	--	11
840	55	367	323	223	35	Service exc. pvt. household (70-86)	14	80	309	93	90	254
723	267	538	557	30	36	Private households (90)	--	--	667	13	4	39
338	4	73	99	195	37	Regular Government estab. (94)	24	105	22	21	11	155
--	--	--	--	--	38	Special Government projects (95)	--	--	--	--	--	--
31	--	2	11	17	39	Establishments n. e. c. (99)	--	8	1	5	3	14
						SELECTED WORKER GROUPS						
1993	42	xxxx	xxxx		40	Women	11	326	894	11	192	559
2124	9	7	xxxx	32	41	Nonwhites	1	3	827	13	77	1203
2233	11	1	14	xxxx	42	All veterans	50	147	174	262	267	1331
2161	11	1	14	xxxx	43	World War II veterans	50	144	153	246	267	1301
280	1	--	10	15	44	Handicapped	6	18	52	18	25	161

(Office number) (Office street address) (Signature) Director, U.S. Employment Service (Title)

16—39061-4 GPO

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
STATE OF ARKANSAS

MONTHLY REPORT
OF

EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DIVISION

PURIFOY GILL, DIRECTOR

MAY

1946

RESEARCH & STATISTICS
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DIVISION
LITTLE ROCK

PURIFOY GILL, DIRECTOR

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Informational Representative	N. M. Whaley
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LEGAL SECTION

Chief Counsel	Luke Arnett
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BOARD OF REVIEW

Chairman	Eugene Baker

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION

Readjustment Allowance Agent	John G. Pipkin

COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR

* * *

Operations for the month of May have been approximately the same as for the previous month which is an all time high in the history of our operation with the potential peak of the claims load expected in July and August.

There is some encouragement in the prediction that local and national industries will have a trend toward more normal operation in the near future. This potential stabilization is showing up at a most opportune time as wage credits of the unemployed war plant workers are nearing exhaustion and the greater portion of veterans readjustment allowances are being absorbed, all of which has amounted to approximately thirty million dollars in circulation in Arkansas through unemployment compensation channels during the past six months which has been of material assistance in stabilizing the cash buying power in communities throughout the State.

With normal seasonal conditions for supplying necessary raw materials for woodwork supplies, it is possible for domestic and industrial building to have some relief in the near future which will lend much support to construction problems in this area for old and new industries which have materially increased in Arkansas this year revealing 1200 new taxable employers since January which will not only assist in absorbing the unemployed but will increase their earning capacity to a higher economic level.

The Employment Security organization has shown much improvement in its experience with decentralization for making determinations in the local offices and establishing of resident deputies at itinerant points which has made it possible to equalize the load, eliminate lost motion, and expedite the time element involved in the handling of claims and paying of benefits in such manner that we are operating on a current basis at present.

Director

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SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES
MAY 1946

BENEFIT PAYMENTS (Civilians)

Benefit payments to civilians decreased 29.6 per cent from $322,206 in April to $226,943 in May. The number of payments issued to approximately 5,675 individuals was 18,919 compared with 26,716 payments to 6,750 individuals in April. The average check size for May was $12.00.

During the month 1,467 persons drew their first payment in the benefit year and 1,820 persons exhausted their benefits.

Payments totaling $21,379 were paid to persons in other states who earned wages during 1944 in Arkansas. This amount represents 1,733 payments paid to claimants in 39 states with California ranking first and Louisiana second. 163 claimants in other states exhausted their benefits during the month.

Table IV represents the benefit payments during May, by major industry groups and selected industry divisions, table V, the benefit payments by local office.

CLAIMS (Civilians)

Of the 5,024 initial claims which were received during May, 4,423 were new claims and 601 were additional claims. Initial claims decreased 13.0 per cent over April. Of the 5,024 initial claims received 2,437 were filed against other states.

Continued claims received during May totaled 66,411, a decrease of 10.3 over April. Of the total of 66,411 continued claims taken in all offices 44,481 were filed against other states. A distribution of all claims is presented in table VII, by local offices in which the claims were filed.

Claims filed against Arkansas for the month totaled 22,864 with initial claims decreasing 17.0 per cent and continued claims 22.7 per cent from the previous month. Interstate claims filed against Arkansas were 463 initial claims and 2,567 continued claims.

CONTRIBUTIONS

During May 9,576 contribution reports were processed representing 133,960 wage items. Of the 9,576 reports processed, 8,759 related to 1946, 706 to 1945 and 111 to prior years.

Contribution receipts (including penalties and interest) totaled $557,968. The total amount of outstanding debit memoranda increased $5,832 for contributions and $256 for interest and penalties. The total amount of outstanding credit memoranda was reduced $14,324.

At the beginning of May there were 19,960 active employer accounts, 765 new accounts were added and 480 removed from coverage leaving 20,245 active accounts at the end of the month.

FIELD SERVICE

During May the 13 field advisers made 1,532 contacts with employers, completing 1,094 assignments. 383 new accounts were discovered, 143 accounts closed and $9,517 in contributions collected. Making these contacts field advisers traveled a total of 16,728 miles.

APPEALS

During the month the lower appeals authority received 249 appeals cases, 231 being labor dispute cases resulting from a strike in the coal mining industry. Of the 27 cases disposed of, 9 were appealed on the issue of ability and availability, 3 misconduct, 7 suitable work, 7 for voluntary leaving and 1 insufficient wage credits. 14 cases were allowed reversing the decision of the examiner, 12 were denied, affirming the examiners decision and one case appealed by the employer was allowed affirming the examiners decision. 49 cases were handled for other states during the month. The higher appeals authority received 2 appeals cases during the month disposing of 5 cases.

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE ACTIVITIES

The United States Employment Service through their offices made 6,553 non-agricultural placements in May, 2,161 World War II veterans were placed. New applications for work totaled 10,204. Agricultural placements totaled 15,926 of which 264 were World War II veterans.

READJUSTMENT ALLOWANCE (UNEMPLOYED)

During May 32,437 veterans were paid $2,529,429. The number of weeks of unemployment compensated totaled 126,688, a decrease of 2.4 per cent from April. 99.3 per cent of the payments were for total unemployment. Of the 126,688 payments made, 38,010 were within one week and 61,426 were made in less than two weeks. Final payments were made to 119 veterans due to exhaustion of entitlement and 4,976 veterans received their first payments.

A total of 127,323 claims were filed by unemployed veterans in all the local offices during the month. 7,241 were initial claims, an increase of 2.7 per cent from April and 120,082 were continued claims, a decrease of 4.3 per cent. 743 claims were transferred from Arkansas to other states and 446 were transferred from other states to Arkansas.

The lower appeals authority received 25 unemployed veteran appeal cases during the month, 21 cases were disposed of. Of the 21 cases disposed of 1 was appealed on the issue of availability for suitable work, 12 voluntary quit, 7 refusal of suitable work and 1 labor dispute. 10 cases were allowed reversing the examiners decision and 11 were denied, 10 affirming and 1 modifying the examiner's decision. Two cases were appealed to the Readjustment Allowance Agent and none were disposed of during the month.

SELF-EMPLOYMENT

Self-employed claims certified for payment during May totaled 21,051, a decrease of 10.5 per cent from April. 20,888 individuals were affected. The total amount certified was $2,095,348 a decrease of 10.2 per cent from April. Claims filed in all local offices totaled 20,110 of which 2,765 were first claims and 17,345 subsequent. First claims decreased 35.8 per cent and subsequent claims increased 22.3 per cent. 100 self-employed veterans received their final payment due to exhaustion of entitlement and 3,238 first payments were certified.

TABLE I
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY ACTIVITIES
(Civilian)

	May 1946	Percentage Change May 1946 from May 1945	May 1944
I. BENEFIT PAYMENTS (Civilians)			
A. Number of checks issued	18,919	↓ 1760	↓ 1688
1. No. of weeks of total unemployment	18,529	↓ 1888	↓ 1760
2. No. of weeks of part-total unemployment	173	↓ 198	↓ 541
3. No. of weeks of partial unemployment	154	↓ 542	↓ 806
B. Amount of checks issued	$226,943	↓ 1986	↓ 1841
1. For total unemployment	224,178	↓ 2070	↓ 1859
2. For part-total unemployment	1,351	↓ 306	↓ 807
3. For partial unemployment	1,414	↓ 555	↓ 1314
C. Average Check Size	$12.00	↓ 12	↓ 9
1. For total unemployment	12.10	↓ 9	↓ 5
2. For part-total unemployment	7.81	↓ 36	↓ 41
3. For partial unemployment	9.18	↓ 2	↓ 56
D. Number of first pay-orders	1,456	↓ 864	↓ 1113
E. Number of exhaustions	1,820	↓ 3270	↓ 2016
II. CLAIMS ACTIVITIES			
A. Claims Received (Ark. liable state)	22,864	↓ 1512	↓ 1604
1. Initial	2,920	↓ 689	↓ 876
2. Continued	19,580	↓ 1786	↓ 1777
3. Exceptions	364	↓ 3540	--
B. Interstate claims received	3,030	↓ 996	↓ 356
1. Initial	463	↓ 743	↓ 311
2. Continued	2,567	↓ 811	↓ 329
III. DETERMINATIONS MADE			
A. Initial claims	2,471	↓ 573	↓ 616
1. Allowed	2,031	↓ 535	↓ 581
2. Disallowed	440	↓ 836	↓ 836
B. Continued Claims	19,013	↓ 753	↓ 965
1. Allowed	18,935	↓ 637	↓ 901
2. Disallowed	78	↓ 868	↓ 586
IV. CONTRIBUTION AND COVERAGE			
A. No. of contribution reports processed	9,576	↓ 26	↓ 58
B. Amount of contributions received	$555,358	- 3	↓ 22
C. No. of subject employers (end of period)	20,245	↓ 9	↓ 13
D. No. of wage items processed	133,960	↓ 17	↓ 24
V. APPEALS ACTIVITIES			
A. Appeals received	251	↓ 2182	↓ 1041
1. Appeals tribunal	249	↓ 2390	↓ 1086
2. Board of Review	2	↓ 100	↓ 100
B. No. of cases disposed of	32	↓ 540	↓ 52
1. Appeals Tribunal	27	↓ 575	↓ 50
2. Board of review	5	↓ 400	↓ 67
C. Disposition by appeals tribunal			
1. Allowed	15	↓ 1400	↓ 150
2. Denied	12	↓ 300	--
3. Modified	--	--	--
4. Withdrawn	--	--	--

TABLE II - LOCAL OFFICE ACTIVITIES
(Civilians)

	May 1946	Percentage Change May 1946 from May 1945	May 1944
I. PLACEMENTS - NON-AGRICULTURAL - TOTAL	6,553	- 50	- 9
A. Male	4,560	- 55	+ 6
B. Female	1,993	- 34	- 31
C. Veterans	2,161	+ 45	+ 312
D. Negroes	2,124	- 32	+ 9
II. TOTAL APPLICATIONS	10,204	+ 396	+ 180
III. TOTAL CLAIMS RECEIVED	71,435	+ 1851	+1848
A. Initial	5.024	+ 546	+ 772
B. Waiting Period	1,283	+ 453	+ 541
C. Compensable	65,128	+ 2356	+2154

TABLE III - VETERAN'S ACTIVITIES

	May 1946	Percentage Change May 1946 from May 1945	May 1944
I. UNEMPLOYMENT ALLOWANCES			
A. No. of checks issued for unemployment	126,688	+ 4677	--
1. No. of weeks of total unemployment	125,811	*	--
2. No. of weeks of partial & part-total	877	*	--
B. Amount of checks issued	$2,529,429	+ 4697	--
1. For total unemployment	$2,516,220	*	--
2. For partial & part-total unemployment	13,209	*	--
C. No. of veterans paid allowances	32,437	+ 5200	--
D. Average check size	$19.96	--	--
E. Number of exhaustions	119	+ 3381	--
F. No. of first allowances paid	4,976	+ 2026	--
II. SELF-EMPLOYMENT ALLOWANCES			
A. No. of claims certified for payment	21,051	+ 4351	--
B. Amount of claims certified for payment	$2,095,348	+ 4473	--
C. Number of individuals affected	20,888	+ 4335	--
D. Number of exhaustions	100	+ 809	--
E. No. of first allowances certified	3,238	+ 2118	--
III. CLAIMS ACTIVITIES			
A. Claims for unemployment rec'd in L.O.	127,323	+ 3427	--
1. Initial	7,241	+ 1144	--
2. Continued	120,082	+ 3865	--
B. Claims for self-employment rec'd in L.O.	20,110	+ 3603	--
1. New claims	2,765	+ 984	--
2. Additional	17,345	+ 5923	--

* * No record of breakdown in May 1945.

TABLE IV
BENEFIT PAYMENTS - BY INDUSTRY

Industry	May 1946		May 1945		% Change May 1946 From May 1945	
	Weeks	Amount	Weeks	Amount	Weeks	Amount
Total	18,856	$226,943	1014	$10,878	+ 1759	+ 1986
AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY & FISHERIES	87	819	7	39	+ 1143	+ 2000
MINING AND QUARRYING	1,200	16,865	87	1,038	+ 1279	+ 1525
Metal Mining	621	8,898	34	446	+ 1726	+ 1895
Bituminous Coal Mining	205	2,803	48	517	+ 327	+ 442
Crude Petroleum & Natural Gas	292	4,058	2	30	+14500	+13427
Other Mining & Quarrying	82	1,106	3	45	+ 2633	+ 2358
CONSTRUCTION	1,127	14,655	44	572	+ 2461	+ 2462
MANUFACTURING	10,851	132,997	496	5,381	+ 2088	+ 2372
Ordnance	3,730	51,121	134	1,778	+ 2683	+ 2775
Food & Kindred Products	1,266	12,010	78	655	+ 1510	+ 1733
Lumber & Timber Basic Products	2,258	24,941	145	1,448	+ 1457	+ 1622
Finished Lumber Products	1,154	13,042	38	376	+ 2937	+ 3369
Nonferrous Metal Products	389	5,603	10	148	+ 3790	+ 3686
All Other Manufacturing	2,064	26,280	91	976	+ 2168	+ 2593
TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATION & UTILITIES	728	9,047	47	498	+ 1449	+ 1717
TRADE	3,500	38,133	210	2,219	+ 1567	+ 1618
Wholesale	700	8,760	21	263	+ 3233	+ 3231
Retail	2,555	26,465	11	162	+23127	+16236
Wholesale & Retail Combined	245	2,908	178	1,794	+ 38	+ 62
FINANCE, INSURANCE & REAL ESTATE	193	2,275	26	179	+ 642	+ 1271
SERVICE	1,150	11,898	97	952	+ 1055	+ 1150
Hotels & Rooming Places	190	1,599	13	123	+ 1362	+ 1200
Personal Service	430	4,324	23	268	+ 1769	+ 1513
All other service	530	5,975	61	561	+ 769	+ 965
ESTABLISHMENTS, NEC	20	254	--	--	--	--

TABLE V - BENEFIT PAYMENTS - BY LOCAL OFFICE

Local Office	May 1946		May 1945		Percentage Change May 1946 from May 1945	
	Weeks	Amount	Weeks	Amount	Weeks	Amount
TOTAL	18,856	$226,943	1014	$10,878	+ 1759	+ 1986
Batesville	596	6,987	1	15	+59500	+46480
Blytheville	191	2,038	17	167	+ 1023	+ 1120
Brinkley	48	490	12	114	+ 300	+ 330
Camden	684	8,649	2	23	+34100	+37504
Conway	547	6,873	40	432	+ 1267	+ 1491
ElDorado	1122	14,612	14	190	+ 7914	+ 7591
Fayetteville	103	1,019	43	327	+ 139	+ 212
Forrest City	257	2,860	70	736	+ 267	+ 289
Fort Smith	1038	13,103	93	984	+ 1016	+ 1232
Harrison	526	5,763	3	26	+17433	+22065
Helena	778	9,015	30	241	+ 2493	+ 3641
Hope	514	6,213	--	--	--	--
Hot Springs	587	6,874	69	740	+ 751	+ 829
Jonesboro	388	4,519	22	110	+ 1664	+ 4008
Little Rock	5131	65,318	308	3761	+ 1566	+ 1637
Malvern	351	4,326	16	151	+ 2094	+ 2765
Mena	206	2,237	--	--	--	--
Monticello	680	8,165	16	165	+ 4150	+ 4848
Newport	80	955	20	180	+ 300	+ 431
Paragould	298	2,955	72	629	+ 314	+ 370
Pine Bluff	732	8,375	45	594	+ 1527	+ 1310
Rogers	527	3,919	8	82	+ 6487	+ 4679
Russellville	589	6,488	6	54	+ 9717	+11915
Searcy	505	6,556	24	252	+ 2004	+ 2501
Stuttgart	240	2,638	2	18	+11900	+14556
Texarkana	304	3,394	3	28	+10033	+12021
Walnut Ridge	42	507	4	44	+ 950	+ 1052
Interstate	1792	22,095	74	815	+ 2322	+ 2611

TABLE VI - U.C. - INITIAL CLAIMS (Arkansas Liable State) BY LOCAL OFFICE

Local Office	May 1946	May 1945	July 1945 - May 1946	
			Number	Percentage Change from July 1944-May 1945
Total	2920	370	42,979	+ 972
Batesville	60	2	786	+ 2146
Blytheville	31	12	430	+ 176
Carden	119	3	1,561	+ 4360
ElDorado	127	--	1,598	+ 4600
Fayetteville	15	7	354	+ 231
Forrest City	38	13	523	+ 363
Fort Smith	340	67	2,420	+ 405
Harrison	79	4	872	+ 2625
Helena	130	5	1,022	+ 1575
Hope	54	5	750	+ 2043
Hot Springs	80	11	1,225	+ 442
Jonesboro	58	2	643	+ 1048
Little Rock	810	119	13,858	+ 947
Mena	16	--	365	+ 3956
Monticello	59	7	1,088	+ 1243
Pine Bluff	103	8	1,577	+ 980
Russellville	78	6	1,424	+ 1149
Texarkana	63	2	635	+ 1280
Paragould	23	9	579	+ 264
Rogers	21	1	371	+ 763
Brinkley	12	1	210	+20900
Newport	20	6	221	+ 151
Malvern	41	6	914	+ 1658
Stuttgart	39	1	256	+ 1500
Walnut Ridge	16	2	175	+ 1067
Conway	43	27	1,705	+ 4915
Searcy	33	6	2,228	+27033
Interstate	412	38	5,189	+ 923

* Office not in operation in May 1945.

TABLE VII - TOTAL U.C. - CLAIMS TAKEN BY LOCAL OFFICES - MAY 1946

Local Office	New	Additional	Waiting Period	Compensable
State Total*	4423	601	1283	65,128
Batesville	209	13	19	3,456
Blytheville	63	11	15	560
Brinkley	14	2	3	211
Camden	138	24	66	1,238
Conway	87	18	29	1,906
ElDorado	198	35	90	2,752
Fayetteville	115	7	10	2,131
Forrest City	75	9	23	1,062
Fort Smith	628	48	205	8,585
Harrison	298	35	41	4,925
Helena	111	38	94	1,128
Hope	154	3	17	2,409
Hot Springs	262	20	--	3,215
Jonesboro	201	12	11	6,395
Little Rock	740	182	355	8,264
Malvern	75	9	21	933
Mena	97	5	--	2,196
Monticello	110	19	35	1,911
Newport	42	3	--	514
Paragould	75	7	7	1,200
Pine Bluff	174	17	83	1,476
Rogers	57	2	18	1,005
Russellville	209	37	62	4,095
Searcy	64	8	18	1,233
Stuttgart	57	4	26	390
Texarkana	128	28	35	1,584
Walnut Ridge	39	5	--	954

* Includes 2,437 initial and 44,481 continued interstate claims.

TABLE VIII- CLAIMS FOR READJUSTMENT ALLOWANCES - BY LOCAL OFFICE

Local Office	Unemployment Allowances						Self-Employment Allowances		
	Initial			Continued					
	First	Additional	Inter state	Lack of Work	Illness or Disability	Inter state	First	Additional	Inter state
Total	5154	1556	531	118,402	893	787	2765	17,345	--
Batesville	234	79	8	7,956	4	32	110	1,241	--
Blytheville	118	70	2	1,862	2	4	116	1,083	--
Brinkley	44	14	4	892	--	1	61	359	--
Camden	129	91	6	2,595	15	16	42	301	--
Conway	106	43	3	3,693	10	15	50	601	--
ElDorado	215	121	25	5,324	104	72	97	474	--
Fayetteville	136	52	20	3,022	53	60	129	787	--
Forrest City	100	30	7	2,972	10	24	238	1269	--
Fort Smith	588	2	19	11,245	47	36	113	807	--
Harrison	160	4	69	3,466	39	29	118	1020	--
Helena	83	40	17	1,362	9	11	77	230	--
Hope	247	26	9	6,720	12	45	128	586	--
Hot Springs	335	139	59	5,686	90	89	63	337	--
Jonesboro	284	13	37	4,275	8	25	295	1719	--
Little Rock	829	348	146	19,905	271	136	141	922	--
Malvern	58	43	2	2,138	51	6	8	79	--
Mena	128	38	7	3,550	4	29	42	415	--
Monticello	209	48	8	3,414	10	5	176	1108	--
Newport	75	--	1	1,154	11	9	107	406	--
Paragould	77	15	1	1,941	--	3	99	541	--
Pine Bluff	277	134	16	6,683	15	39	142	481	--
Rogers	89	34	4	1,433	10	18	92	702	--
Russellville	235	63	13	5,956	35	24	117	551	--
Searcy	104	33	14	3,810	2	17	87	614	--
Stuttgart	64	36	2	1,763	21	1	57	303	--
Texarkana	152	40	11	4,825	60	37	25	199	--
Walnut Ridge	78	--	21	760	--	4	35	210	--

EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DIVISION
LOCAL CLAIMS OFFICES

LOCAL OFFICE	NO.	EXAMINER OR DEPUTY IN CHARGE	COUNTIES SERVED	NO.	ITINERANT POINT
BATESVILLE	1	Malcolm E. Ritchie	Independence	32	
			Fulton	25	*Salem
			Izard	33	Melbourne
			Sharp	68	*Hardy
			Stone	69	Mt. View
			Cleburne	12	*Heber Springs
BLYTHEVILLE	2	John F. Cross	Mississippi	47	*Osceola
BRINKLEY	26	Thomas E. Ladd	Monroe	48	Clarendon
CAMDEN	3	Maurice E. Carter	Ouachita	52	
			Calhoun	7	Hampton
			Dallas	20	Fordyce
CONWAY	33	Elmer W. Fiddler	Faulkner	23	
			Van Buren	71	*Clinton
EL DORADO	4	Frankye R. Colvin	Union	70	
			Columbia	14	*Magnolia
FAYETTEVILLE	5	William D. McClain	Washington	72	
			Madison	44	*Huntsville
			Benton	4	Siloam Springs
FORREST CITY	6	William F. Strickland	St. Francis	62	
			Crittenden	18	West Memphis
			Cross	19	Wynne
			Woodruff	74	*Augusta
			Lee	39	Marianna
FT. SMITH	7	Howard K. Hull	Sebastian	66	
			Crawford	17	
			Franklin	24	Ozark
			Logan	42	*Paris
					Booneville
HARRISON	8	Rue B. Masterson	Boone	5	
			Baxter	3	*Mt. Home
			Marion	45	Yellville
			Newton	51	Jasper
			Searcy	65	*Marshall
			Carroll	8	Berryville
					Eureka Springs
HELENA	9	Nina G. Nicholls	Phillips	54	
HOPE	10	Joe B. Greene	Hempstead	29	
			Howard	31	Nashville
			Lafayette	37	Lewisville
			Nevada	50	Prescott
			Clark	10	*Arkadelphia

LOCAL OFFICE	NO.	EXAMINER OR DEPUTY IN CHARGE	COUNTIES SERVED	NO.	ITINERANT POINT
HOT SPRINGS	11	Gil C. Herring	Garland	26	
			Pike	55	Glenwood
					Murfreesboro
			Montgomery	49	Mt. Ida
JONESBORO	12	Rudolph Ritter	Craighead	16	
			Poinsett	56	Harrisburg
					*Marked Tree
			Clay	11	*Piggott
			Randolph	61	Pocahontas
LITTLE ROCK	13	John W. Carland	Pulaski	60	
			Lonoke	43	Carlisle
					Lonoke
			Perry	53	Perryville
			Prairie	59	Des Arc
					Hazen
			Saline	63	*Benton
MALVERN	29	Mary S. Rhodes	Hot Spring	30	
MENA	14	Tommy Tisher	Polk	57	
			Scott	64	*Waldron
			Sevier	67	*DeQueen
MONTICELLO	15	George B. Lyon	Drew	22	
			Bradley	6	*Warren
			Chicot	9	*Lake Village
			Desha	21	*McGehee
			Ashley	2	Hamburg
					Crossett
NEWPORT	27	Fannie B. Beard	Jackson	34	
PARAGOULD	24	Lewis D. Hansbrough	Greene	28	
PINE BLUFF	17	Thomas C. Blocksom	Jefferson	35	
			Cleveland	13	Rison
			Grant	27	Sheridan
			Lincoln	40	Star City
ROGERS	25	May S. Armstrong	Benton	4	
RUSSELLVILLE	18	Donaghey Sammons	Pope	58	
			Conway	15	*Morrilton
			Johnson	36	*Clarksville
			Yell	75	Danville
SEARCY	92	Verner W. Dumas	White	73	
STUTTGART	31	Martha M. Bruton	Arkansas	1	
TEXARKANA	19	Clarence B. Schultz	Miller	46	
			Little River	41	*Ashdown
WALNUT RIDGE	32	Phillip H. Dougherty	Lawrence	38	

* Resident clerk in charge.

Field Agent

June 6, 1946

MEMORANDUM: Harry L. Wright and John W. Merkerson
FROM: George S. Mitchell

Kepp your eyes open for this in Florida and South Carolina, please, and if you pick up good information write me what you find.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Field Agent

June 14, 1946

Mr. Harry L. Wright
1206 NE 9th Street
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Dear Harry:

On Tuesday I had a visit from the National Commander of the National Council of Negro Veterans, Mr. Muldrew. He said that they intend to have their national convention at Little Rock, August 16,17, and 18. He was very hopeful that you could attend as a representative of the Southern Regional Council and as a veteran.

If you can fit that into your schedule, I hope you will. I would like to know generally what happens, and I guess Mr. Bohannon would like to know in detail about this organization.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

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DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

Southern Regional Council, Inc.
ROOM 432, 63 AUBURN AVENUE, N. E. ATLANTA 3, GEORGIA

A Council to attain, through research and action, the ideals and practices of equal opportunity for all peoples in the South

June 19, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Avenue, N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia.

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

I am now comfortably located in Oklahoma City through the efforts of my friend Mr. Ragland.

Again, I am moving around among officials and leaders with a view toward getting acquainted: as I tell them, " I just want to see how you Oklahoma people are doing things". Both White and Negroes like this attitude, and are happy to go into details in "setting their best feet forward" for me.

When I stepped off the train here and made my way toward the station, I looked as usual for the special waiting room that I have found marked in all of the Southern States "Colored Waiting Room" instead I found the sign reading "Negro Waiting Room". I am learning how distinctive that sign represented racial thinking here, where the Negro is concerned.

As it is generally known--Oklahoma City is primarily an oil-town; with the usual refineries, supplying companies, several large meat packing industries, countless retail establishments and hotels and service businesses furnishing the employment opportunities.

Politics is a whole story in itself. It seems to me that everybody is running for some office. Even though I am a stranger here of just five days, my hand has been shook as many times by candidates on the streets. Everybody who

takes the time to qualify by registering can vote in all the elections.

All over the city, I've seen good school buildings, well kept and well-equipped. Most of the homes I have seen are good buildings on paved streets, there are the usual large number of run-down houses.

This is the over-all picture--here's how the Negro "fits" the picture. At the Veterans Administration, I got past all the usual red tape and cornered the manager of the sub-regional office, Dr. C. W. Robinson. After presenting my credentials, I gave my little sales talk mentioning that I was a native Mississippian. Dr. Robinson took my hand and shook it again saying, "well you are alright, you old son-of-a-gun, I was born in Mississippi too." We spent fifteen minutes talking about people we both knew at home. Back to business--he explained that he had three Negroes employed in the sub-regional office; two training officers and one clerk, he added that one of the Negro training officers, Mr. Parks, was one of the best men in the whole office. Dr. Robinson suggested that I take his Negro training officer, Mr. Parks, with me on some of my trips, in order to better our relationship. By these remarks I placed Dr. Robinson: "Wright, I can't understand why people can't get along with Negroes, I understand them, you see I had a colored mammie". I understood--yet, there is so much good in the worst of us.

After my talk with Dr. Robinson, I asked to speak with the Chief of Education and Training, Mr. George Coles. I found that Mr. Coles wasn't well informed on Negro Veterans but he made good use of Mr. Parks, the Negro training officer, as his adviser. In Oklahoma City, eleven business establishments had been approved for job-training for Negro Veterans under Public Law 16. Three of these business establishments are owned by white, with Negro veterans on job-training. Trades being learned in these establishments are auto mechanics, carpentry, electricity, baking and dry cleaning.

I am happy to say that I visited an excellent Negro High School here. The principal, Mr. F. D. Moon, informed me that the building was built at a cost of $400,000. It's well organized, well-kept and adequately equipped. I went through the whole building; visited from class to class. I saw approximately one hundred veterans studying carpentry, radio, and auto mechanics. There were available equipment for classes in air conditioning, refrigeration and barbering, these courses in addition to a course in vocational music will begin as soon as enough students are enrolled. Educational facilities are entirely adequate to take care of institutional training of Negro veterans in Oklahoma City.

Getting a job for Negro veterans in Oklahoma is just like getting a job for Negores in Arkansas, in my own Mississippi, or any other of the Southern States. Mr. J. Harvey Kerns, of the National Urban League in his survey on the social and economic conditions of the Negro population of Oklahoma City describes employment of Negroes thus: "Practically 85 per cent of the Negro labor force consists of workers engaged in occupations which are least secure and the lowest paid---90 per cent of employed Negro men and women are in domestic employment, personal service jobs and in unskilled labor jobs." That's how employment stands; and the same pattern is continuing step by step.

Mr. Morris Leonhard is State Director of the USES. I went in and got acquainted with Mr. Leonhard. I listened while he outlined the problems of employment in the state. I found him cordial and well-informed, and not "singing the blues" because veterans were drawing that $20.00 unemployment allowance. Mr. Leonhard said this: "largely, veterans are looking for jobs that they feel offer some security and a decent living, this is in preference in most cases to drawing unemployment allowances." USES employs two Negro professional workers and one clerical, in Oklahoma City. These employees are located in a segregated office in the Negro business district.

At this "Jim Crow" USES office, I talked with Mrs. Mattie Jeltz, supervisor interviewer, in charge. She admitted that most of the jobs requests directed to her office were for Negores to do menial jobs. There had been only a few request for jobs as bricklayers, plasterers, and body and fender mechanics. Typically as in the case of segregated setups, the office is understaffed, and poorly equipped. Mrs. Jeltz has the information on the break-down of veterans' placement in occupation classes; I suggested that she get the permission of her manager to give me these figures.

Politically, the Negro is being "courted" by everybody who seeks an office. Nobody has raised any race issue--this is unique for a state considered even "Southern" in its make-up. Negro registrars handle anybody in their area. My hostess is one of the registrars for this area, which is well mixed with other races, mostly white people. Both of the leading candidates for governor have Negro assistant state managers, who head their own "State headquarters". There is no controlled political machine for Negroes. Negroes are generally "for" the white man who has shown in his private and public life that he is more pro-Negro than is his opponent.

Generally, I haven't found Negro veterans very militant over here. The American Legion is a well entrenched organization among veterans of World War 1. Mr. Roscoe Dungee, Editor of the Black Dispatch, explained to me that World War II Negro veterans weren't more progressive here because they were heeding the advise of some of these old veterans of the American Legion group.

I am continuing to get inside of the whole situation--racial thinking is a little different over here--example: Regular Negro policemen are employed, yet postal officials have refused to permit Negroes to carry mail, not even one mail carrier.

Best wishes to you and the staff.

Your friend,

Harry L. Wright

Harry L. Wright
1206 N. E. 9th Street,
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

June 27, '46

Dear Harry,

Your Arkansas article is in fine shape. I made a very few pencillings here and there, mostly on commas and minor points, and handed it to Ray Warwick to be printed. When he will print it I don't know, but I hope soon.

It's a good job; restrained, yet hard hitting. And it has plenty of facts.

I hope to get your check into this letter. We are deducting the $50.00 recent advance, and hope that won't break you. If so, say so, and we'll forward all or part.

Miss Anna is off on her V - cation (to quote my friend Houston, but comes back Monday.

Best,

G.

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Southern Regional Council, Inc.

ROOM 432, 63 AUBURN AVENUE, N. E. ATLANTA 3, GEORGIA

A Council to attain, through research and action, the ideals and practices of equal opportunity for all peoples in the South.

25 June, 1946

Dear Dr. Mitchell,

Here's my rough draft of the Arkansas survey with the additional information that I was able to pick up over here.

I think I have all of the essential facts, if I lack a point or two I can secure it through mail from my Urban League friends.

Somehow, I am leaving for Oklahoma City tonight.

Your Friend

Henry L. Wright

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June 28, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia.

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

I have arrived back to Oklahoma and have gotten on the job of getting on the inside of how the administrative side of the veterans education and training program works.

At the state capitol, I located the office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, Mr. A. L. Crable. I found Mr. Crable to be an intelligent and straight forwarded man-- he knew nothing about the veterans educational programs and he said so in no uncertain words. After giving me a general view of education in Oklahoma; he personally, in an unusual polite way, escorted me to the offices of other officials who handled veterans programs, and introduced me. At each introduction he would add my little joke that I was one of "Bilbo's boys from Mississippi". This would break the formality, we'd have a good laugh and then to business. In this way I was introduced and arranged conferenced with the following officials: Mr. J. W. Sanford, Negro, State High School Inspector, Mr. E. A. Duke, White, Agent for Negro Education, MR. Paul Cope, Director State Accrediting Agency and Dr. M. A. Nash, State Veterans Advisory Committee Chairman.

Here's the situation: Oklahoma's authority to supervise veterans education and training has been placed in the hands of a five-man advisory committee, appointed by the Governor. This policy-making committee includes representatives of both VA and the State Department of Education. In the local communities, the school boards, county or towns, working along with a local advisory committee, appoints a coordinator of the veterans education program.

The principal old-line agency established to handle veterans problems in Oklahoma is the Soldiers Relief

Commission. This is an American Legion-sponsored agency. This commission is governed by a three man board (per diem basis only) chosen by the Governor from the names of eight persons submitted by the State Department of the American Legion. This three man board of the Soldiers Relief Commission has set up a new agency, the State Accrediting Agency.

The director of this Agency is chosen by the board of the Soldiers Relief Commission. The function of the State Accrediting Agency principally is to inspect and accredit business establishments and to generally keep an eye on job training. Until very recently this Accrediting Agency had no funds andhad to keep their hands in the pockets of the Soldiers Relief Commission in order to survive. Only about eight persons were employed by the Accrediting Agency in trying to do the job of getting job training under-way. The American Legion came to their aid by employing an attorney to bring legal action before the State Supreme Court in order to authorize use of the Governor's Emergency and Contingency Funds in financing this Agency. The Accrediting Agency now employs twenty-six officers out in the State. When the next fiscal period, July 1, 1946, comes, this agency hopes to expand and are planning to employ at least one officer in each county. Except for the Accrediting functions this agency is just another State Service Office, like I have found around in the other States.

In each of my conferences with these officials I have brought them the idea of using Negro employees--for the most part they have been open-minded about suggestions. I have in every instance been asked to come back in and to recommend things I found would help Negro veterans in any-way.

Realizing that the American Legion held the "big stick" in veterans affairs over here, I knew that I must get on the inside of their organization. At the State Department, I went in and met Mr. J. Fred Baker, Department Service Officer and his assistant Mr. Mike Battiest. Since I knew the Legion officers in both Mississippi and Arkansas, I was assured by these gentlemen, "Mr. Wright, We'll help you in your work with Negro veterans just like the other Legion officials in Mississippi and Arkansas".

In Oklahoma, as of June 20, 1946, American Legion had 70,315 members, approximately 40,000 of these are World war II veterans. This membership is distributed in 320 post which includes approximately 50 posts for Negroes. Mr. Battiest estimated that 20,00 of their members were Negroes, however, informed Negro Legionaires estimate that Negroes number only about 5,000.

An informed Negro official of the Legion explained to me how his post of the American Legion had to certify and approve any claim by any Negro veteran (member or non-member) for any of the emergency relief money (state funds) available to veterans. This is a good bait for membership drives. Readily, I could understand why department officials boasted that the Legion was five times larger than the combined membership of all other veterans organizations in the state.

I feel that now I have sufficient background for my trips out in the state. Best wishes to you and the staff.

Your friend,

Harry L. Wright

Harry L. Wright.

July 2, 1946

MEMORANDUM TO: Harry L. Wright
FROM: George S. Mitchell

I need some information about training programs for Negro veterans. Please try to get it back to me by Monday, July 8th. Send it by wire if you have to.

What I want is your best guess as to the number of white veterans receiving respectively job training, institutional training, and farm training, and the number of Negro veterans receiving each, as of the end of June '46, in Mississippi, Arkansas, and Oklahoma individually.

Field agent

July 3, 1946

Mr. Harry L. Wright
1206 NE 9th Street
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Dear Harry:

I can see you are off to a good start in Oklahoma.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

PAUL D. WILLIAMS, RICHMOND
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A Council to attain, through research and action, the ideals and practices of equal opportunity for all peoples in the South.

15 July, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Ave. N. E.
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

I have just returned to Oklahoma from the "Fireside Chat" at Waveland, Mississippi. This was the most inspirational and informative conference I have ever attended.

The "Fireside Chat" as you know is an informal organized group of Southern Negro leaders who meet ocassionally and outline broad principals that aim to assist Negro farmers in agriculture specificly and the whole South generally.

About ten such leaders attended this conference representing, Fisk, FSA, SRC, U.S. Extension Service, and Arkansas State College. A fine group of men filled with a real spirit of helping our people to make farm life a little bit fuller.

In setting the stage for the conference, Mr. Giles Hubert stated that the purpose of the "Fireside Chat" was to work out a clear-cut policy of how to aid Negro farmers in Agriculture and to bring the broad problems of Negro farmers and the South before public eyes. The "how" of accomplishing this was the task the "Fireside Chat" undertook.

These five needs were outlined in Mr. Hubert's presentation of the problems of Negro farmrs in Southern agriculture:

1. Adequate farm units for the experience of young farmers in preparation for farm ownership.
2. Advice and guidance from public farm service organizations.
3. Tenant contracts - fair compensations.
4. A good farm credit system - desirable, and fair terms and interest rates.

5. A method to enable young farmers to make something out of farming in order to encourage ambitious and able young men to remain on the farm.

It was an encouraging thing to me to see that every problem that came up in the over-all picture was primarily concerned with the problems of Negro veterans.

The discussion on "Mechanization, land tenure changes and land use problems as thse affect Negro farmers" was built around a study of this problem by Dr. Rapier of the BAE. Dr. Rapier estimated that 1,600,000 people will be displaced by farm machines when the heights of machine use is reached. This study revealed the reduction in production cost by the use of machines - the increased efficiency - and the trend toward perfecting thse farm machines to take over completely the whole task of cultivating major crops.

Practically all day and late into the nights, we sat and picked all angles of this problem apart. Mainly, we concerned ourselves with the people who would and could remain on the farm after extensive mechanization and the ones who would be displaced. Here's what we felt would help:

1. Location of Negro farmers in organized communities. By this we meant in communities where some natural community cooperation in farming was being carried on; or in planned organized communities assisted by government agencies. This kind of location would enable Negro farmers to work cooperatively with other farmers in using practices that would enable them to compete with large mechanized farms.

2. Train as many Negro farmers as possible in farm machine operation and repair.

3. To train as many Negro displaced farmers as possible in trades and mechanics, in order that as many as possible can be absolved into the expanding Southern industries.

In each of these discussion, I explained some part of the veterans training program that fitted the situation,perfectly.

I was chairman on the discussion "organization to meet the problems of veterans returning to agriculture". In my statement to the conference, I described the organizational setup of the farm training programs in the several states that I have visited, outlined the role of educational institutions in the problems, then I related some of the evils I had found that were seeping into the program. I made only one recommendation to the "Fireside Chat":

1. To become informed on benefits available to veterans, encourage other leaders to become interested and informed and to "pass the word" in every little rural village in every little community.

The discussion of this problem was the climax of the "Fireside Chat". I feel that the benefit of getting these key leaders from all over the South informed and interested on what was happening to Negro veterans in agriculture will pay ample dividends to our veterans program.

The "Fireside Chat" decided to undertake one project for improving the Negro farmer's lot in Southern agriculture: To organize state groups of leaders interested in agriculture and smaller such groups in communities, who will meet in the manner of the "Fireside Chat" to map plans and policies for Negro leaders in agriculture. These smaller groups will remain informally organized and will "pass the word" by the "grapevine" system. The "Fireside Chat" will serve as a kind of steering committee, unattached, for these community organizations. A sample of these community and state organizations are to be set up in Arkansas and North Carolina first, in order to study the merits and faults before attempting this plan in other states.

Best wishes to you and the staff.

Your friend

Harry L. Wright

HARRY L. WRIGHT

- -

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RECEIVED
JUL 24 1946

July 22, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia.

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

This week I made a trip to Tulsa, Oklahoma. Tulsa is Oklahoma's second city in size, first in wealth, first in being a strong hold of the Republicans, and first in making the fairest gesture of real freedom toward its Negro citizens. There are approximately 180,000 people living here, Negroes number about 20,000 of this number. Responsible officials estimate that 30,000 veterans have returned, and that 3,000 of these are Negroes.

Negroes are very active in politics here. There are twenty Negroes on the police force, which includes, one Negro police woman, two special investigators (detectives) several plain clothes men, patrol men (automobile) and "beat walkers". The city buses operating through the Negro area of the town (all Negroes live in distinct Negro areas) are driven by Negroes. There are approximately ten Negro postmen, four Negro lawyers, and about ten doctors. A number of teachers who are suppose to be receiving equal pay.

Tulsa claims title to being "the world's oil center", together with the oil fields, refineries, the meat packing houses, and two steel foundries, the supplying companies service establishments and retail stores furnish the employment.

Negroes have a good school, churches and a fair number of good homes and businesses.

After I got registered at my hotel, had breakfast, located the popular barber shop in the town for my usual morning shave

and shoe shine (in order to listen in on the current topics being measured in terms of importance to the welfare of the local Negro Community), I began to try to locate the office of the Veterans Administration. With the help of the cab driver and a hotel doorman, I found the Veterans Information and Referral Center.

I introduced myself to Mrs. Ida Campbell, said my usual little speech, and asked her to explain the function of the center. She explained that all of the agencies that work with veterans in Tulsa had one of their representatives located here, in order that a veteran could make a one stop do for all. Mrs. Campbell was concerned because Negro veterans were not coming in the center for service. White veterans were coming in at the rate of 80 per day--Negroes were averaging only about 8 per week. I promised her I would try to help her find why Negroes weren't using the center, extensively. Enclosed in my letter are notes of my questioning five typical Negro veterans found around on the blocks in Tulsa.

When my conference with her was finished, she insisted that I talk with Mr. Frank H. J. Crawley, American Legion Service Officer at the center. After introducing me and my little introductory speech was again finished, Mrs. Campbell left Mr. Crawley and me to talk alone.

As soon as we were alone, Mr. Crawley explained to me that he was a Westerner, and therefore he looked at the Negro problem (so called) differently than the local Southerners. He told me some of the things he was able to do for Negro veterans there on the "Q. T." He said he was glad to get a chance to tell what he had been doing to some one who could understand. All the time I listened, I feared he was trying to draw me out on my views--I remained conservative in my views. I am sure he noted this.

After I explained extensively my work, in particularly, pushing job and farm training for Negro veterans. He told me that the local committee on job training was meeting this afternoon, and if I would accept, he would have the chairman to invite me to speak to this committee. I accepted, and the plans were laid.

At the appointed time, I met Mr. Crawley at his office, and together we walked about four blocks to the Board of Education's Building, where the meeting was to be held. The committee met in the private conference room of the Board of Education. I was formally introduced to all nine members of the committee, (by the use of the courtesy title).

When the business section of the meeting begun, I was invited to sit in on the conference. This committee has thejob of accrediting places of establishments for job training.

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Then, I asked the committee how many veterans had returned to Tulsa--about 30,000; how many of these were Negroes--about 3,000. I inquired further what the population of Tulsa was--about 180,000. How many of these were Negroes--about 30,000; how many White veterans were on job-training--1200; and how many Negroes were on job-training--approximately 25.

I then drew a picture, your Negro population is approximately one-sixth of the total population--sharing taxes and other responsibilities of Government in their proportion, Negro veterans equal one-tenth of the fellows who have been away doing their share to save our Country--yet Negro veterans have in the instance of job-training ~~more than~~ get 50 times less training and employment opportunities as White veterans. Something is wrong, somewhere. I explained, that I perhaps would have to run back home after I finished talking.

I explained why Negroes didn't understand how to get their benefits. I told the committee (it) was a good example of how white veterans was being represented, but I told them I bet I was probably the first Negro who ever sat at this table. (I saw several white janitors and white char-women peeping in while I was talking) I said you white leaders run both sides of the program without knowing or even seeing our side. I told them it was like a man trying to drive a car with a blindfold over his eyes. I asked this committee to invite at least three Negro leaders in to their next meeting. Explain to them how to get Negro Veterans on job-training in simple ABC fashion, not only this, but let these Negro leaders know that you honestly want Negro veterans to get their just share of these benefits because you are interested in both the veterans and the communities.

Well, I sold the idea. The committee agreed to invite Negro leaders to their meetings. When I finished talking all of these nine white men came over to my side of the table and warmly shook my hand. One spirited fellow put his arms around my shoulders and said, I could count on him, and that we had a wonderful program.

At the ~~USES office~~, I talked with ~~Mr. John Atkins~~, Negro Interviewer. The office of the USES for Negroes is located in a little "hole in the wall" section of a building in the Negro business area. The office is understaffed, and inadequate for the large number of applicants handled. Negroes get only the usual kind of low income, insecure jobs.

There are two trade classes at the High school for veterans--Tailoring and Auto mechanics. Opportunities for trade education is entirely inadequate for Negro veterans in this area. I had a conference with Mr. John G. Lovejoy, Representative for VA about matter.

There is one private school located here. One of my "fulfill the law" schools trying to catch some of this Government money, floating around. I have all the inside information on it; we'll discuss this when I am back in Atlanta.

Best wishes to you and the staff.

Your friend,

Harry L. Wright

Harry L. Wright.

HLW:nr

Field Agent

July 22, 1946

Mr. Harry L. Wright
1206 NE 9th Street
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Dear Harry:

I have not answered your letter of July 7th, because I have been out on a trip for once myself. Went to Nashville and New York. I shall be interested in hearing about the "Fireside Chats".

I hope you get what you pushed for so acutely at Muskogee with Lunquest and Wilson.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

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DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

Southern Regional Council, Inc.
ROOM 432, 63 AUBURN AVENUE, N. E. ATLANTA 3, GEORGIA

A Council to attain, through research and action, the ideals and practices of equal opportunity for all peoples in the South.

July 7, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Ave. N. E.
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

Since getting a good background of the veterans program over here, I am now devoting my time to actually observing conditions in the areas in which most of that 7% Negro population live.

My first visit was to Muskogee, Oklahoma, a "main" town for a large and prosperous farming area. Muskogee is Oklahoma's third city in size - Negroes constitutes about one third of the population in this area.

I arrived in Muskogee on the eve of election day. I have never seen our democratic system of election being given the interest and concern of all citizens without regards whatever to race or color, here seems to be one place in the South where we have in-fact a "free" election.

The Veterans Administration offices are located in three different buildings in two widely separated areas. After walking around three or four blocks and asking as many people, I located the building where the Vocational Rehabilitation and Education Division is housed. Mr. R. H. Davis, Assistant Chief was the official in charge, so I talked with him. I have always made it a practice to always contact the chief official first before talking with lessor employees. In this instance, the Regional Manager's office was located two or three miles away and Mr. Davis, asked me to discuss my interest in veterans with him even after I had explained my usual course. This arrangement had its advantages.

In my conference with Mr. Davis, I did all of the talking, explaining what kind of organization the SRC was, who handled the veterans program, and just who George S. Mitchell was, where was he born and how did we get our money.

I enjoyed his questions, I laid everything right sideup on the table.

When it came my time to ask questions he only wanted to talk in general terms , he always, "didn't quite know". He was happy to get rid of me by taking me in and introducing me to the two Negro Training Officers. These two Negro Training Officers desks were located in the back of the office away from everybody else.

Mr. Wells was the first training Officer with whom I talked - he was a typical kind of old-fashioned scared-about-his-job man, a veteran of World War 1. He stated that he was supervising 17 Public 16 veterans in on-the-job training in shoe repair, tailoring, leathercraft, plumbering, and auto mechanics; two of these veterans were on-job training in white establishments. "As far as I can see it, everything is alright," he told me.

The other Negro Training Officer is Mr. Robert E. Lee, a World War 11 veteran, wide-awake and really interested in helping the fellows. After talking with him a while, I found that he was an old FSA man; we talked further I found that he was a Tuskegee man. From then on he explained the weakness of the veterans program. Prior to his appointment two months ago, as agricultural training officer, white training officers had made only a "token" effort to get Negro veterans on farm training, results- there are 50 classes in farming for white veterans underway, and not even one for Negro veterans. Mr. J. H. Walton, white, senior agriculture training officer, confirmed this information.

Confidentially, Mr. Lee admitted that the "excuse" offered by Mr. Walton that Negro veterans interested in farm training were first exhausting all benefits available under the self-employment program, first, before applying for on-the-farm training, was true to a very limited extent; the real reason was because they didn't know "where to go, and who to see" - uninformed.

Mr. Lee told me how white veterans advisers were systematically "placing" Negro veterans always in only traditionally "Negro" trades, without any reference to test results and veterans preferences. They were still using the "train-them-for-what-they-can do-in-the-South" principal. I saw a real evil here. I was advised that Veterans Administration had continuously refused to hire Negro Advisers.

During the remainder of the day, I met some of the Negro leaders around the town. Mr. Jake Simmons, Negro, oilman, real estate dealer, politician of state-wide fame for quiting his job as Negro State Manager for one the rich candidates for governor because the candidate remarked that, "I just love a good old Southern Darkey", Mr. Simmons gave me a good background of how Negroes fared in this area.

I was introduced to Mr. J. H. Grimes, Commander of the Negro American Legion Post. He explained to me fully the work of his post in the community.

As usual, I had off-the-record chats with veterans in the usual hangouts (there were 9 veterans in the pool room, by actual count). I found how the fellows were feeling about things.

The next morning, when I walked into the office of the Regional Manager, Mr. P. T. Lunquest, my approach was planned. After my introduction, he explained fully the way that the Veterans Administration's training programs were setup. I told him, I wanted to ask him three questions - I asked how many Negro veterans were on all of the training programs directly under the supervision of the Veterans Administration, how many Negroes were on farm training, and how many Negro veterans were on job training. He couldn't answer anyof the three questions. In defense he explained that he only kept up with the over-all programs for all veterans.

I explained that I didn't expect him to be able to answer either of my questions - I only wanted to show him how administrative officials like him, failed to know how the special problems of Negro veterans were being worked out. I added, "and we, folks who were born and reared down here, know that Negroes do have special problems," "yes", he said, "I was born in Georgia". He understood.

I told him how much Negro advisers could help out in their program with Negro veterans. He made the statement in a general way that if enough Negro veterans were serviced by the advisement division to keep an adviser busy, then he would gladly hire a Negro. I caught him up on hispromise. He repeated it. I asked him how many veterans were required to keep an adviser busy - he said that about eight veterans per week. He promise that if I could find that as many as eight Negro veterans were coming in per week for advisement, he would hire a Negro adviser. In this connection, he suggested that I arrange a conference with Mr. Seth Wilson, chief of vocational Rehabilitation and Education Division and discuss this matter with him, relating (his) the manager's promise.

The Regional Manager's office is located in the veterans hospital . Personally, Mr. Lunquest escorted me through the Negro wards the kitchens and dining halls. The hospital wards and other facalities for Negroes were clean and adequate - yet, segregated.

Back at the vocational rehabilitation and education division, I had a conference with Mr. Seth Wilson, chief and his assistant in charge of the guidance section. I explained Mr. Lunquest's promise, then I requested the number of Negro veterans who came in for advisement each week. They admitted that almost thirty Negroes were coming in each week, this is the only office in Oklahoma where Negroes are referred to for advisement. Mr. Wilson told me if I could find two qualified Negro veterans he would consider hiring them as advisers. I have been expecting this, so, I have already three well qualified Negroes ready now to apply for the jobs, we'll see how this works out.

At the USES office, I met the manager, Mr. John S. Jamison. He refused to give me any break-down on the placement of Negroes on jobs in this area, even though I saw the figures on his desk.

In his general conversation, I found that 2351 veterans were drawing unemployment compensations in May; that there was and had been a large surplus of available labor in this area since and during the war. The usual employment pattern for Negro veteran was in evident.

Mr. Lee, the Negro agricultural training officer took me on a sixty miles tour of the surrounding rural area. There is an unusual large number of Negro farm owners. Every one of the many wealthy Negroes who live in Muskogee has a farm in the surrounding rural area.

Negro leaders say, race relations are healthy in this area, because, they say, Negroes vote and have money. White people call Negroes, mister, here without hesitation - how forced this is, I can't really tell.

Best wishes to you and the staff.

Your friend

Harry D. Wright

HARRY D. WRIGHT

- -

Field Agent

Tulsa, Oklahoma - July 22, 1946

At the appointed time, I met Mr. ---- at his office, and together we walked about four blocks to the Board of Education Building, where the meeting was to be held. The committee met in the private conference room of the Board of Education. I was formally introduced to all nine members of the committe, (by the use of the courtesy title).

When the business section of the meeting began, I was invited to sit in on the conference. This committee has the job of accrediting places of establishments for job training. During the business session I made notes, and asked a question or two in order to get a background of the situation. After the business session was finished, Mr. B. L. Shepherd, Chairman of the committee and Assistant City Superintendent of Education, introduced me to the committee.

First, I told them where I was born, where I went to school, and my service. I explained all about the SRC and then related some of the work I had been doing in other Southern States.

Then, I asked the committee how many veterans had returned to Tulsa— about 30,000; how many of those were Negroes—about 3,000. I inquired further what the population of Tulsa was— about 180,000. How many of these were Negroes— about 30,000; how many white veterans were on job-training— 1200; and how many Negroes were on job-training —approximately 25.

I then drew a picture, your Negro population is approximately one-sixth of the total population—sharing taxes and other responsibilities of Government in their proportion, Negro veterans equal one-tenth of the fellows who have been away doing their share to save our country —yet Negro veterans have in the instance of job-training fifty times less training and employment opportunities as white veterans. Something is wrong, somewhere. I explained that I perhaps would have to run back home after I finished talking.

I explained why Negroes didn't understand how to get their benefits. I told the committee (it) was a good example of how white veterans were being represented, but I told them I bet I was probably the first Negro who ever sat at this table. (I saw several white janitors and white char-women peeping in while I was talking.) I said you white leaders run both sides of the program without knowing or even seeing our side. I told them it was like a man trying to drive a car with a blindfold over his eyes. I asked this committee to invite at least three Negro leaders in to their next meeting. Explain to them how to get Negro veterans on job-training in simple ABC fashion, not only this, but let these Negro leaders know that you honestly want Negro veterans to get their just share of these benefits because you are interested in both the veterans and the community.

Well, I sold the idea. The committee agreed to invite Negro leaders to their meetings. When I finished talking all of these nine white men came

over to my side of the table and warmly shook my hand. One spirited fellow put his arms around my shoulders and said, I could count on him, and that we had a wonderful program.

Tulsa, Oklahoma
August 4, 1948

The Marine Corps League is a veterans organization that limits its membership to marines, active and discharged. Like the Marine Corps it was so-called lily-white, and seamless, before World War II. The War changed things for the Marine Corps - Negroes and white women were added - so when the call went out for members among discharged marines, something new was added - Negroes and women.

In order to assist the Marine Corps League in enrolling new members, headquarters, Marine Corps, supplied the organization with names of all marines residing in nearby areas, without any racial distinction being shown. In Oklahoma City, the local chapter of the Marine Corps League sent out a call to all marines, using headquarter's list of marines. Negro marines received the call. One of my old shipmates, Frank Simmons, invited me to visit the meeting with him in order to see what was wanted. The meeting was held in the conference room of the Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce located in one of the larger office buildings.

Two minutes before the scheduled meeting, Mr. Simmons and I stepped off the elevator into the reception room of the Chamber of Commerce, where about twenty white Marines were informally chatting and smoking. A hush came over the entire room as we entered. We went over to a group and introduced ourselves and inquired about the meeting. We were informed that the formal meeting would begin in a short while - so we started recounting Pacific War days with several white Marines who had visited the areas we had seen; in the meantime, another Negro marine strayed into the room and joined us. Finally the meeting was called to order in the conference room - all of us took seats around a big conference table. The minutes were read; the president made the usual speech of greetings to old and (prospective) new members; a few items of business were discussed and then it came time to invite new members. The room was as intense with an air of indecision and excitement as I have seen many times while we waited to determine whether to shoot a plane down because we weren't able to tell whether it was friend or foe. They didn't want Negroes to join, but they couldn't legally refuse us admission. Silently the application forms were passed to everybody. We took ours, and filled them out like everybody else - everybody was watching us - I was studying every face including the three women marines. I determined to bring feelings out in the open, so I said: I know this is the first time we have had Negro marines, I am visiting over here in Oklahoma studying opportunities for Negro veterans, I live in Atlanta. If I join here, can my membership be transferred to the branch of the Marine Corps League in Atlanta? That did the trick of breaking the tension; at least ten people tried to answer me at one time.

The president suggested that since a big part of the program of the Marine Corps League was social entertainment that the colored Marines set up them a chapter where they can have their own dances, "just like the Colored American Legion Post". Mr. Frank Simmons spoke up and said that he hadn't joined the American Legion because that was all about they did - dances and drink beer; however, he told the group that he would get a few Negro marines together and see what they thought about the president's idea. This plan seemed to have soothed the feelings of most everybody. I kept watching everybody's face. Somehow, I could see that the secretary, a small young white woman, wanted to say something so very much until she was turning in her chair. I spoke up again, I told them that I was a member of an interracial veterans organization in Atlanta, that we were more interested in doing some worthwhile things for the good of both white and Negro veterans than in beer drinking and dancing and that we met together and worked together. Whenever I saw a Marine, white, yellow, or black, I felt that here was a brother, and I stuck out my hand and said - so we had lived together, worked together, fought together and died together during the war, and it was a sad sight to me to see a bunch of Marines who couldn't even meet and work together now after the last gun had stopped firing.

That was all this young woman needed - she rose to her feet and she pointed her fingers in the face of every white man in the room and she said - yes, we want these colored Marines, they have as much right to belong to this league as any one of us, we can learn a lot from them and they can learn a lot from us; I am ashamed of the talk that has been going on here tonight, I am for seeing these marines to be accepted just like any other marines. After her talk the League voted to accept Negro marines as members if they desired to join or to help them organize separate chapters if they desired - whenever, I hear "the marines have landed and the situation is well in hand", I'll forget the battle-clad leatherneck stepping across the bow of a landing boat, and think of a young woman marine standing before a room of battle-scarred veterans pointing a scolding finger; defending the right of a minority group.

Natchez, Mississippi
August 12, 1946

This week, I re-visited the Natchez and Vicksburg Areas. In Natchez, it was encouraging to see evidence of improvement in the lot of Negro veterans as a result of some of our work here. You probably remember the meeting of Negro leaders and businessmen, and other leaders, and the Veterans Service Officer, Mr. Jimmy Clinton, that we talked to in Natchez and worked up on my last visit there. Mr. Clinton credits this meeting with the success he has had with Negro veterans in the on-the-job-training program. I was walking down the main street in Natchez, trying to make my way through the crowd, when I heard someone say, "Hello there" I paused but I didn't notice anyone whom I knew; then he spoke again and said, "Wait a minute"; this time I recognized that it was Mr. Clinton, who was standing near the street talking with a lady.

After his conversation with the lady was finished he came over, pushed out his hand and said, "I'm glad to see you, wright"; how are my veterans getting along in Natchez now, I asked. He said that after that meeting with the veterans and business men we held in January, his office was flooded with applications for on-the-job training qualification inspections by Negro business men. Now there are Negro veterans taking on-the-job training in various trades, i.e., automobile repair, brick masonry, butchering, carpentry, cleaning and pressing, cooking, painting, plumbing, and one professional position (drug store manager), he estimated that there were approximately 100 Negro veterans taking the on-the-job training in the Natchez area.

A great deal of progress has been made in Natchez, yet, too large a number of veterans are found rolling dice, in the open gambling houses, their feet on the rail drinking hard liquor over open bars, and the pool rooms are still full. I visited all of these places and saw. There is not a single veterans organization in the town, I was informed.

Something made me curious about this Stampley's garage training five Negro veterans as mechanics. I wanted to see it. In order to get a cab I walked back to Washington Street in the Negro business section to a cab stand (just an opening in the wall). When the cab driver came out I asked him if he knew where Stampley's garage was located. "Right here", he said. I stepped into the little stand and asked if Mr. Stampley was near by. He wasn't but one of his hired hands agreed to show me around. The "garage" was a wash rack located in a big barn-like building with two large car jacks on each side of the building, and about ten wrenches, and a few screw drivers scattered around over the building. The building was dark, dirty and foul smelling; drawn near each other were two old wrecks of automobiles, under and around these I found the five veterans on-the-job training. The teacher they informed me had gone for a little ride, however when I said I would wait around for him they thought he might not get back "'til tonight". I talked with these fellows explaining how I was trying to help Negro veterans. They hesitated to talk with me, I knew that they wanted to tell me something. I knew the right thing to say in order to get them to talk. How much beginning salary are you veterans receiving? I asked. They told not only that they were not receiving any salary at all from the employer but they were learning hardly anything more than they already knew. There was inadequate equipment to work with, and there were no organized classes, the employer operated a cab company and these veterans did the mechanical work in the keeping of these cabs in shape. Mr. Stampley is a Negro business man. This is one of the worst evils I have found in an on-the-job training situation yet. Somebody in the accrediting agency will hear bout this situation.

Atlanta AVC meeting Wednesday July 24th, 8:00 PM, at the USO

Bring a new member!

7808 Court Street
Muskogee, Okla.
July 29 1946

Mr Harry L. Wright
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Avenue N.E.
Atlanta 3, Ga.

Dear Mr. Wright,

Hope that you made your return trip O.K.

I have all information before the Personnel officer and had a talk with him. So you can see I am waiting on something to develope. I will keep you posted on the matter and it may be necessary for you to make a return visit to this section. You did a lots of good here. I wish I could write Dr. Mitchell a letter telling him the good you have done.

Say Harry I heard that Wells the Negro who sits in front of me in the office was being let out effective

August 1/46. I will let you know about this later. Say don't forget my name in connection with the other agents. Be sure and keep in touch with me.

Yours truly,

Lee

Field Agent

July 29, 1946

Mr. Harry L. Wright
1206 NE Ninth Street
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Dear Mr. Wright:

Dr. Mitchell is out of the city, but I talked with him long distance this morning about your wire, among other things.

He will not be back in the office until August 8th, and he suggests that before you come to Atlanta, you revisit the points you covered in Mississippi. He made it clear that you are to do this only if you think it will be valuable.

We mailed you your expense account check last Friday and will mail your salary check to reach you by July 31. Do you still need a fifty dollar advance? If so, wire me, and I will get it to you at once.

Mr. Bohannon tells me that General Bradley is expected to be in Little Rock some time between August 15 and 19. He thinks it would be a good idea for all the field agents to meet in Little Rock at that time and arrange a meeting with General Bradley to give him information about their findings in the Southern states. I am writing Dr. Mitchell about it today. I don't know whether he will approve, but I thought I would tell you about it just so you could be giving the idea some thought.

Mr. Bohannon is still working on the Piedmont Laundry about your shirts, but they tell him they have no record at all of them. Perhaps when you hit Atlanta, you can either track them down or get repayment. I hope so.

Sincerely,

Anna S. Warwick

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A. N. WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT

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63 AUBURN AVE NORTHEAST ATLA=

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RAY WARWICK
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Southern Regional Council, Inc.

ROOM 432, 63 AUBURN AVENUE, N. E. ATLANTA 3, GEORGIA

A Council to attain, through research and action, the ideals and practices of equal opportunity for all peoples in the South

July 30, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia.

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

This week I visited Ardmore and made a return trip to Muskogee.

Ardmore is located over near the Oklahoma-Texas border. It is the "shopping center" for a surrounding agricultural area. All the businesses located there are supplying and/or service enterprises. Of the 20,000 inhabitants 3,000 are Negroes. There are a number of Negro Ministers, a fair number of teachers and one plumber. Negro businesses are of the usual kind and type found in small southern towns--a cafe, a barber shop, a shoe repair shop, and the ever present pool room. All of this is(classicly) located on the other side of the railroad tracks.

At the local USES office, I introduced myself to the desk clerk and asked to talk with the manager--I was ushered to the desk of Mrs. Edyth Holly, who explained to me that she was acting manager in the absence of the office manager. After I had explained to her fully my work she frankly admitted that she was afraid to answer any of my questions about employment in this area. This is the first instance in which an official in charge of an agency's office has completely refused to give any information. I have thought of bringing this to the attention of the State Director of USES.

There is no VA office of any size or kind in this town (20,000). The American Legion is very active in this area. The American Legion Post for White veterans carries the Negro post along in the manner of a little "step-brother."

I was invited to the monthly meeting of the American Legion post for Negroes. There are approximately 90 veterans listed as members in this post--only ten attended the meeting; this number was evenly divided between veterans of World War No. I and II. I passed out some of our job and farm training articles, and talked informally with some of the fellows after the meeting.

At the American Legion shack for Whites, I had a conference with Mr. J. Shanhan, Post Service Officer. When I first walked into his office, I could tell that this man was bold enough to be outspoken. In introducing my work, I told him that the State Service Officer, Mr. Baker and I had got along fine--we both had been able to discuss things frankly. That was the key to the door--he explained all of the veterans programs underway there in Ardmore, let me in on the weakness, and the like. He said the USES wasn't doing anything for Negroes other than offering them a job to dig a ditch or mow some lawns. One or two days per week one of the VA contact officers visited the town and "sat around the Legion office, and smoked a few cigarettes" Mr. Shahan stated.

By Mr. Shahan's direction, I found the office of the coordinatior of job training--located in the basement of the white high school. The coordinator was Mr. M. I. Alton, a clean-cut young veteran who was "willing to help all the Colored Veterans who came in and ask me for help, I don't believe in going out dragging either White or Colored veterans in". On job training there were 200 white veterans and only 5 Negroes. There were no Negro veterans on farm training and only 20 White veterans. Mr. L. . . Price, Representative of the State Employment Security Commission, informed me that about 40 Negro Veterans and 300 white veterans were drawing self employment allowances in the surrounding farm areas--the entire number of Negroes drawing this allowance were qualified only as farmers; in other words no one Negro veteran in business had qualified. In this connection, I explained this benefit to two Negro veterans in business here, and told them to apply through Mr. Shahan, Legion Service Officer, tell him--that this fellow Wright, who had been around worrying about Negro veterans asked them to see Mr. Shahan because Mr. Shahan would be sure to get something done to help them.

On my last night in Ardmore, I visited an anniversary of the largest Negro Baptist Church in the town and I was asked to explain my work with veterans--it was one of our "Clark College" meetings. I got the word over to a large number of women--that's very important.

My visits to high officials of agencies have a certain amount of nuisance value--I know it, and I never forget to use

it to whatever good I have in view. I went back to Muskogee and just quietly walked into the Regional Manager's office and said "well here I am again to see how you'v worked out some of the problems we talked about last time". Mr. Sunquest stated that he had talked with Mr. Wilson about the employment of a Negro Adviser and that they were working out details. Mr. Robert E. Lee (whom I had to apply) has been promised one of the jobs if he can get the civil service secretary to change his designation. Casually, I said to Mr. Sunquest, I am sure you have fully reviewed VA circular # 165 on the employment of minority veterans, that was recently sent to all of you officials. He admitted he had. I than asked what was he doing about it. He said that they were planning to hire a number of Negroes but "of course Mr. Wright, you know we can't hire them in supervisory positions because they Couldn't work over white people down here." Just hire them I said and We'll find a way to work out other things as we go along.

After my conference with the Regional Manager, I visited the Education and Rehabilitation office and gathered some data on the number of veterans on the different training programs for my survey report.

Mr. Wilson was happy in reporting to me that now they have 19 Negro veterans on farm training with several other classes being worked up. Well its a long road--but one step made is one step farther.

Best wishes to you and the staff.

Your friend,

Harry L. Wright

Harry L. Wright.

HLW:nr

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Amazing

A Council to attain, through research and action, the ideals and practices of equal opportunity for all peoples in the South

4 August, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Director Of Veterans Services
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

Most of my time has been used this week in making the transition from Oklahoma to Mississippi.

I went back in to see officials of local Veteran Adminstration, U. S. E. S., and state offices in Oklahoma City, picked up as much data for my report as I could wrangle from them. I promised that I would send them my criticism along with my suggestions after my report was completed.

The Marine Corp League is a veterans organization that limits its membership to marines, active and discharged. Like the marine Corp it was so-called lily-white, and womanless, before World War II. The War changed things for the Marine Corp. Negroes and White women were added, so when the call went out for members among discharged Marines something new was added - Negroes and Women.

In order to assist the Marine Corps League in enrolling new members, headquarters, Marine Corps, supplied the organization with names of all marines residing in nearby areas, without any racial distinction being shown. In Oklahoma City, the local chapter of the Marine Corps League sent out a call to all marines, using headquarter's list of marines. Negro marines received the call. One of my old shipmates, Frank Simmons, invited me to visit the meeting with him in order to see what was wanted. The meeting was held in the conference room of the Oklahoma City Chamber Of Commerce located in one of the larger office buildings.

Two minutes before the scheduled meeting, Mr. Simmons and I stepped off the elevator into the reception room of the Chamber Of Commerce, where about twenty white Marines were informally chatting and smoking. A hush came over the entire room as we entered. We went over to a group and introduced ourselves and inquired about the meeting. We were informed that the formal meeting would be-

gin in a short while- so we started recounting Pacific War Days with several white Marines who had visited the areas we had seen; in the meantime, another Negro marine strayed into the room and joined us. Finally the meeting was called to order in the conference room- all of us took seats around a big conference table. The minutes were read; the President made the usual speech of greetings to old and (propective) new members; a few items of business were discussed and then it came time to invite new members. The room was as intense with an air of indecision and excitement, as I have seen many times while we waited to determine whether to shoot a plane down because we weren't able to tell whether it was friend or foe. They didn't want Negroes to join, but they couldn't legally refuse us admission. Silently the application forms were passed to everybody—we took ours, and filled them out like everybody else- everybody was watching us- I was studying every face including the three women marines. I determined to bring feelings out in the open so I said: I know this is the first time we have had Negro marines, I am visiting over here in Oklahoma studying opportunities for Negro veterans, I live in Atlanta. If I join here, can my membership be transferred to the branch of the Marine Corps League in Atlanta? That did the trick of breaking up the tension; at least ten people tried to answer me at one time.

The President suggested that since a big part of the program of the Marine Corps League was social entertainment that the colored Marines set up them a chapter where they can have their own dances," just like the Colored American Legion Post." Mr. Frank Simmons spoke up and said that he hadn't joined the American Legion because that was all about they did - dances and drink beer; however, he told the group that he would get a few of Negro marines to-gether and see what they thought about the President's idea. This plan seemed to have soothed the felling of most everybody. I kept watching ~~the~~ everybody's face. Somehow, I could "see" that the Secretary, a small young white woman, wanted to say somet hing- so very much until she was turning in her chair. I spoke up again, I told them that I was a member of an interracial veterans organization in Atlanta, that we were more interested in doing some worth-while things for the good of both white and Negro Veterans than in beer drinking and dancing and that we met to-gether and worked to-gether. Whenever, I saw a Marine, white, yellow, or black, I felt that here was a brother, and I stuck out my hand and said -so we had lived to-gether, worked to-gether, fought to-gether and died to-gether during the war and it was a sad sight to me to see a bunch of Marines who couldn't even meet and work to-gether now after the last gun had stopped firing.

That was all this young woman needed- she rose to her feet and she pointed her fingers in the face of every white man in the room and she said- yes, we want these colored Marines, they have as much right to belong to this league as any one of us, we can learn a lot from them and they can ~~talk as has been going on here to-~~ learn a lot from us, I am ashamed of the talk that has been going on here to-

night, I am for seeing these marines to be accepted just like any other marines. After her talk the League voted to accept Negro marines as members if they desired to join or to help them organize separate chapters if they desired- whenever, I hear " the marines have landed and the situation is well in hand" I'll forget the battle-clad leatherneck stepping across the bow of a landing boat, and think of a young woman marine standing before a room of battle-scared veterans pointing a scolding finger; defending the right of a minority group.

Since arriving in Jackson, I have arranged conferences with several Leaders in order to get the inside of what was happening in Mississippi with veterans.

The Jackson College Summer school for rural teachers is in session. I was invited to talk to several classes of these teachers on the Opportunities for Veterans Education under the G. I. Bill. I used the Farm Veterans article by you in my talks. I got an idea from these talks with rural teachers. In everyone of thes Southern States, large groups of rural teachers like these are meeting; they are (with the exception of the ministers) the most influencial leaders in the rural areas where most of the Negro veterans, who need advice, live. Here is an opportunity for our organization to do a most effective job of getting pertinent information about Veterans opportunities to these community leaders in a group. I would like to discussed this idea further with you.

According to Mr. Reddix, President of Jackson College, there are 3700 Negro veterans discharged and living in Jackson, all the available educational facilities couldn't afford room for 700 of this number. The Veterans Administration is still " only white" in its employment policies. I am planning to check this situation to-gether with several other problems, I have heard about in the State.

Best wishes to you and the Staff.

Your friend,

Harry L. Wright

Harry L. Wright

Field Agent

August 6, 1946

Mr. Harry L. Wright
1244 Pittsburgh Street
Jackson, Mississippi

Dear Harry:

Of course; that's fine.

The Council provides accrued annual leave for its non-temporary employees (of which I count you one) at a rate of one day per month. According to the records, you have about seven days leave due you now.

I shall be wishing to see you about the middle of the month, so you should travel to Atlanta at the Council's expense.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Dr. Mitchell learned in Washington that General Bradley is not going to Little Rock after all, so that plan is out.

AW

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A Council to attain, through research and action, the ideals and practices of equal opportunity for all peoples in the South

August 12, 1946

Dr. George S, Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Ave, N. E.
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

This week, I re-visited the Natchez and Vicksburg Areas.

In Natchez, it was encouraging to see evidence of improvment in the lot of Negro Veterans as a result of some of our work here. You probably remember the meeting of Negro Leaders and businessmen, and other leaders, and the Veterans Service Officer, Mr. Jimmy Clinton, that we talked to in Natchez and worked up on my last visit there. Mr. Clinton credits this meeting with the success he has had with Negro Veterans in the On-the-job-training program. I was walking down the main street in Natchez, trying to make my way through the crowd, when I heard someone say,"hello" there, I paused, but I didn't notice anyone whom I knew; then He spoke again and said, "wait a minute", this time I recognized that it was Mr. Clinton, who was standing near the street talking with a lady.

After his conversation with the lady was finished he came over pushed out his hand and said, "I'm glad to see you,Wright;" how are my veterans getting along in Natchez, now, I asked. He said that after that meeting with the veterans and businessmen

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we held in January, his office was flooded with applications for On-the-job-training qualification inspections by Negro business-men. Now there are Negro Veterans taking On-the-job-training in various trades, i.e., automobile repair, brick masonery, butchering, carpentry, cleaning and pressing, cooking, painting, plumbing, and one professional position (Drug Store Manager), he estimated that there were approximately 100 Negro veterans taking the On-the-job-training in the Natchez Area.

I wanted to take a look at opportunities for farm training in this area; so, I went to see the County supervisor of the FSA, Mr. F. H. Massey. I explained my interest in farming opportunities for veterans, and mentioned that I was an old FSA worker, and asked him to give me a picture of the farm program being carried on in this Area. Mr. Massey cordially went into details to give an over-all picture of the farm program in this county. There were no veterans on the Farm training program in this county, he said. This statement was confirmed by Mr. M. L. McCarthy, Contact Representative. A large number of Veterans of both races had been requesting loans to purchase farms. There were adequate funds available to take care of all request but there were no farms available for sale in the county. Six per cent of the population in the county owned 70% of all the farm land--according to Mr. Massey, Veterans who were desiring farm ownership were being advised to leave this county,

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Most of the Negro farmers in this county were either renters or farm laborers. In these instances, Farm training had the least chance.

To get a look at employment opportunities, I talked with Mr. Carl Newton, veterans employment representative of the USES. Mr. Newton stated there were plenty of jobs still available and several new industries were establishing businesses there. One such company was the Johns-Mansville Company. This company was building a plant there that could employ from 400 to 600 persons. Employment here is the same old story, only the menial jobs go to Negroes. I think that our organizstion could do a great deal of good by requesting the main offices of such companies as John-Mansville to make a special effort in placing Negro veterans in a definite portion of skilled jobs, (trainees or otherwise) available in their plants being located through the south; though these plants may be locally managed, they are owned by people who should have sympathy for fair employment for minority workers; most of the unions would be on our side. I want to talk this over with you when I am in the Office.

A great deal of progress has been made in Natchez, yet, too large a number of veterans are found rolling dice, in the open gambling houses, their feet on the rail drinking hard liquor over open bars- and the pool rooms are still full. I visited all of these places and saw. There is not a s ngle veterans organization in the town, I was informed.

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In Vicksburg, I arranged a conference with the YMCA Secretary, Mr. Hicks, who gave me an "inside view" of what the Negro Veterans were doing. From this information I saw the evils of one Job Training situation.

To begin my observation, I visited the Veterans Administration Contact Officer, Mr. W. T. Alvis, Contact representative was in charge. After I introduced myself, I asked Mr. Alvis to tell me all about the Veterans training programs in the Vicksburg Area. Each week his office arranged a weekly broadcast giving general information to veterans on all the benefits of the G I Bill. His office was making contacts with veterans on a 40/60 Negro-white basis; they were making an effort with limited personnel to supervise both Bills, #346 and #16, veterans On-the-job-training. His training officer was out of town for a few days, therefore, he didn't have the figures on the number of veterans who were participating in the On-the-job-training program, and of course, "we don't separate record of our white and colored veterans." Yes, I understood, here was another instance of an un-informed official. He pointed out several places where Negro veterans were on-the-job-training. There is a Garage, (Stampley's) that is training about five negro veterans as mechanics. I thanked Mr. Alvis for his cooperation and took my leave. Something made me curious about this Stampley's garage training five Negro veterans as mechanics. I wanted to see it.

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In order to get a cab I walked back to Washington Street in the Negro business section to a cab stand (just an opening in the wall). When the cab driver came out I asked him if he knew where Stampley's garage was located, "right here" he said. I stepped into the little stand and asked if Mr. Stampley was near by? He wasn't but one of his hired hands agreed to show me aroung. The "garage" was a wash rack located in a big barn-like building with two large car jacks on each side of the building, and about ten wrenches, and a few screw drivers scattered around over the building. The building was dark, dirty and foul smelling; drawn near each other were two old wrecks of automobiles, under and around these I found the five veterans on-the job-training. The teacher they informed me had gone for a little ride, however when I said I would wait around for him they thought he might not get back "'til to-night". I talked with these fellows explaining how I was trying to help Negro veterans. They hesitated to talk with me, I knew that they wanted to tell me something. I knew the right thing to say in order to get them to talk. How much beginning salary are you veterans receiving? I asked. They told not only were they not receiving any salary at all from the employer but they weren't learning anything hardly more than they already knew. There were inadequate equipment to work with, and there were no organized classes, the employer operated a cab company and these veterans did the mechanical work in the keeping of these cabs in shape. Mr. Stampley is a Negro businessman. This is the one of the worst evils I Have

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found in a on-the-job-training situation yet. Somebody in the accrediting agency will hear about this situation.

According to Mr. John P. Fairley, Veterans Employment Representative, there are a surplus of job opportunities in the Vicksburg Area. Most of the jobs available are in the building trades. Laborers wages are .50 and .60 cents per hour; semi-skilled 60 to 85 cents per hour and skilled jobs pay $1.00 to $1.50 per hour. During July, 1946 there were484 applications for employment, 222 of these were Negroes. Veterans were about 40% of this number. Since April 1946, the U.S. Government has increased their wages as much as .49 cents per hour in some brackets, local concerns have increased theirs .05 cents. There is a limited opportunity for Negro Veterans to get-On-the-job-training due to the pattern of employment. Not one of the ten or more veterans with whom I talked knew of any kind of veterans organization in Vicksburg.

Mr. Hicks invited several Negro businessmen over to the YMCA to talk with me. I have asked these men to arrange a conference with the contact representative in order to assist in working out some of these problems.

With every good wish to you and the Staff.

Your friend,

Harry L. Wright

Harry L. Wright

HLW:dwg.

Field agent

August 22, 1946

Mr. Harry L. Wright
63 Auburn Avenue, NE
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Harry:

I suggest that you mail out these extra copies to such person who in your judgment are most apt to get something done along this line.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

September 13, 1946

Mr. Harry L. Wright
1244 Pittsburgh Street
Jackson, Mississippi

Dear Mr. Wright:

I have a gap in my files of your reports between the July 15th report and the August 4th report.

I am wondering if you don't have the July 22nd, and possibly July 29th, report stuck away in your briefcase somewhere. Won't you please try to track them down and send them along to us, if you find them?

Sincerely,

Anna S. Warwick

Field report

Sep. 20, '46

Dear Harry,

Thanks for the dope of Sep. 15.

I am glad ~~xx~~ you see light on a Mississippi committee.

Mrs. Tillyson sent your check yesterday. Miss Emily's on vacations. So's Mrs. Warwick.

Sincerely,

GSM

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15 September, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Ave. N. E.
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

I have devoted the most of my time this week in getting the information on the Craft Case for Mrs. Tilley, however I have our plan for encouraging the organization of Negro Veterans in view.

The Jackson Chapter of the AVC is a going concern. I have been invited to speak at their meeting Tuesday night. Privately, I have been talking with the chairman and several of the most active members of this organization about mak- a special effort to invite some white veterans to join their chapter. I am going to suggest in my talk Tuesday night that especially a number of the white veterans in school at Millsap College be invited to join. There are more than ninety Negro veterans now in this chapter.

Both Jackson College and Campbell College have large numbers of veterans enrolled from all over the state. In my conference with Mr. Jacobs, business manager of Jackson College, and a veteran himself, suggested in organizing a Council of veterans that we should make good use of the large number of veterans enrolled in the three colleges located in and near Jackson. He said it would be an easy and effective project to invite one veteran from all of the sections of Mississippi represented in the veteran student groups from these colleges to a meeting in Jackson, in addition to this we would ask all veteran organizations, organized, to send a representative . By this arrangement, we would get in touch not only with all existing veterans organizations but would be encouraging these wide-awake in-

telligent college veterans to go back home and to start some kind of organization or to put a little spirit into the old organizations on hand.

The VFW has cleared the way for organizating posts for Negroes in Mississippi. Mr. Dixon Pyles, attorney for the Craft family and vice commander of the VFW post her, has asked me to send them a good Negro veteran. The VFW proposes to give him a substantial salary and expense account to travel all over Mississippi organizing Negro veterans. I am not in favor of segregated posts for veterans but I realize that once Negro veterans are organized they can make whatever adjustments that they feel are to their best interest - a mean toward an end. If such a veteran is employed - one whom I suggest; I am sure that he will oblige me in promoting our veterans council project. If VFW gets a Negro veteran in the field organizing then I am sure the American Legion can be enticed to follow suit.

I have been in to see Mr. S. L. Greene, president of Campbell College. He insisted on going into details to explain Campbell College's veterans program. You will remember that I wrote about this group of white investors building one of these "fulfil the law" trade schools here at Campbell College. This trade school is almost physically completed - two Negro "hirelings" have been sent out into the streets and byways of Jackson "combing" the area for Negro veterans who want to learn automobile mechanics and electricity and to make "that $90.00". In the segregated office on the campus of the (Negro) Campbell College the white heads of the trade school sit registering Negro veterans "rushed" that way.

I have talked my plan for encouraging the organization of Negro veterans over with several Negro leaders in Jackson. I am going in to see several white officials of veterans organization and the state department of education, next week. This is a project needed here and it has the earnest interest of the responsible Negro leaders with whom I have talked. I feel certain that we can shape up a worthwhile organization of Negro veteran organizations over here with some planning and some work.

Best wishes to you and the staff.

Your friend

Henry L. Wright

HENRY L. WRIGHT

- -

14 September, 1946

Mrs. M. E. Tilley
Field Secretary
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Ave. N. E.
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Mrs. Tilley:

I had hoped to get this information to you before you left for the New York Conference.

Here is my impression of the background of the area of Magee, Mize and Raleigh, Mississippi: Magee is located approximately sixty-five miles south-east of Jackson on Highway 49, and it is one of the scheduled stops on the Gulf and Ship Island Railroad (Illinois Central System). Magee is the local "shopping center" of a large proverty-stricken agricultural area. It is my estimate that less than 10 per cent of the people who live there are Negroes. Mize is a hamlet located twelve miles east of Magee at the junction of highway 20 and 35W - its just a filling-station-general-store sized town. Thirteen miles further east on highway 35 is Raleigh; the typical small town courthouse, a few cafes, a small newspaper office, the post office, the filling station, and a small group of homes make up the town. These towns form an unusual rural area: most of the farming is truck farming, water melons are the principal crops. A majority of the farms are family-sized and a few farms with tenants and cash renters. Most of the families inter-marry among related families and the few tenants and cash renters are usually "cousin Joe" who feels that he has a rightto live on the old family homestead. The land is hilly and poor and the people are poor. It takes the combined labor of the whole family to "scratch" out a living here. There isn't need or money for hired labor; this accounts for the small Negro population. Only a hand full of Negro farm owners live in this area. Most of the Negroes living in this area are employed in the heaviest and dirtiest labor and service jobs. There is a church and a school for Negroes. The Negro teachers come to the communities do their "teaching" and go back somewhere else to make their homes.

The enclosed copies of the statements of some of the people involved in the Craft affair and some outside persons will give you the "Negro side" of the story.

At your suggestion, I went in to see Mr. Dixon Pyles, who is attorney for the Craft family. My friend, Mr. Percy Green, Negro Editor of the Jackson Advocate, called Mr. Pyles and told him that I was "alright". When I arrived at the office, Mr. Pyles put me through the usual test I often face in getting acquainted with white leaders over the South. When I finished talking Mr. Pyles opened up all his files on the case to me and arranged for to talk with the principle defendants, Mr. Albert Craft, Sr. and his wife, Mrs. Rachel Craft.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Craft seemed to me to have been still afraid to talk. They confirmed the information contained in the enclosed statements. I feel that they are withholding valuable in an attempt to protect their white friend, Mr. Harve Jack Sullivan; this is being done either in faith or under duress.

The four oldest sons are still in the Hinds County jail in Jackson. The local bonding companies refuse to issue a bond without property (real property) securities. Property owners are reluctant to offer bond. The Crafts confined in the jail are afraid to talk while in jail, hence real progress on the case is hampered. Funds for the defense of this family are being raised through efforts of the Civil Rights Congress. The Defense is in dire need of funds in order to hire special investigators and an additional attorney.

I have informed Mr. Pyles of your interest. He is very interested in talking with you; his telphone number is 4-8982 in Jackson, Mississippi. You will be able to contact him during any of the morning hours after 9:00 A.M. I have enjoyed gathering this information on this case, if I can be of further use, please let me know.

Sincerely

HARRY L. WRIGHT

- -

Field Agent

September 25, 1946

Mr. Harry L. Wright
1244 Pittsburgh Street
Jackson, Mississippi

Dear Harry:

Shelby Robert has been in communication with a man at St. Louis whom I think it would be worth your while to go up and see as early as you can conveniently arrange the trip. He is Paul B. Kinder, Supervisor Agricultural Training, VA Branch Office #9, Boatmans Bank Building, St. Louis, Mo.

Kinder is an old FSA man who was in southeastern Missouri and knows about cotton. I have the matter only vaguely, but Kinder's concern is with difficulties he is having with getting Negro veterans in Arkansas to agree as to the kind of farm training program they want and getting them to enroll for a program.

Shelby thought that if you could get with Kinder, it would be very helpful.

Maybe it would suit you better to write Kinder mentioning Shelby's name and make a date to meet Kinder when Kinder is on his travels in Arkansas at some point near to you, or make a date with Kinder to see Kinder in St. Louis as you choose.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

September 25, 1946

Mr. Harry L. Wright
1244 Pittsburgh Street
Jackson, Mississippi

Dear Harry:

Many thanks for your letter of September 22. You are striking pay dirt.

I think you are handling it just right. The program is fine. I have made one or two small changes and return the hundred copies under separate cover.

Best of luck for the occasion.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

PAUL D. WILLIAMS, RICHMOND
PRESIDENT
P. B. YOUNG, NORFOLK
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT
FRANK W. SPENCER, SAVANNAH
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SECRETARY-TREASURER
GEORGE S. MITCHELL
DIRECTOR OF VETERANS SERVICES
RAY WARWICK
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

My Jackson Tel. No. 3-5196

Bohannon

Southern Regional Council, Inc.

ROOM 432, 63 AUBURN AVENUE, N. E. ATLANTA 3, GEORGIA

A Council to attain, through research and action, the ideals and practices of equal opportunity for all peoples in the South.

September 22, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

I am very encouraged with the prospects of the organization of a working council of Negro veterans organizations in Mississippi.

In order to get approval and the moral support of the American Legion and the VFW, I made this approach: In my conference with Mr. McCoy, officer in charge of the State offices of the VFW. I told him that I have found that Negro veterans and their other "best" Colored people in the communities were not informed about how veterans could take advantage of some of the opportunities offered for training under the GI Bill, and as a result Negro veterans were missing outon a number of benefits that would help both the veterans and the whole community. Only about 400 of the 3700 Negro veterans ~~honorably~~ HONORABLY discharged and living here in Jackson are receiving subsistence allowances for training in an educational institution, this means that 3300 Negro veterans are missing the opportunity of a monthly income for subsistence alone, of about $215,000. - the merchants, the real estate people, the doctors and the "butcher and the baker" both white and Negro, are missing THIS potential income along with these veterans. As poor as we are in Mississippi we can't afford to miss even $1.00 coming into the state.

In order to get Negro veterans to take advantage of their opportunities, I have asked my organization to let me come back to Mississippi to encourage and to help sponsor the organization of a council of Negro veterans organizations - a kind of steering committee that will encourage the organization of Negro veterans in every community over the state and to keep Negro veterans informed about issues that effect their general welfare. We are asking each veteran organization in every section of Mississippi to send a representative to a meeting in Jackson on October 5th.

We would like for the VFW, the Legion and other national veterans organizations to send a speaker who will explain to these representative their program and plans for Negro veterans in Mississippi, not only this, we want your moral support.

"Just let us know, Wright and we will be there and do whatever we can do to help", Mr. McCoy said. He explained to me that the state encampment of the VFW had voted to organize posts for Negroes with certain provisions left to be worked out by a committee. The provisions worked out by the committee are: Negro posts are to be "sponsored" by the local post for white veterans - in other words VFW posts for white veterans must say "it's all right to let the Colored veterans have a post". All the resolutions that effect local conditions passed by the posts for Negroes must be first approved by the post for white veterans before it can be published officially, however anything that effects national matters can be resolved and published directly without the consent of the local post for white veterans. These posts for Negroes willreceived equal representation at the national convention. I am not surprised to find this paternal attitude involved in the VFW's program for the organization of Negro veterans. My position in this matter is that basically it's a good thing for Negro veterans even under these conditions, because I know how "handy" Negroes are in taking the opportunity to do just about what they want to do. All we need to is to get them to gether and inform them.

At the State Department of the American Legion, I talked this this same project over with Mr. Robert Morrow, State Adjutant. He said that the State Department now has the authority to organize posts for Negroes but the designated committee hasn't finished working out the details. The State Department of the American Legion would send a speaker to this meeting if I would keep him informed on the time, he said.

I find it good business to keep Dr. P. H. Easom on my side and informed on my work over here in Mississippi; on the matter of this veterans' council. I arranged a conference and outlined my plans and asked for his suggestions. He thought well of the idea of such an organization and said that I could say to people that I had talked it over with him and he thought well of the idea. This does a great deal of good around in official circles. Dr. Easom is still very concerned about these private trade schools "springing up" over the state. He has asked me to make an inspection of them whenever I am in areas where these schools are located.

Officials of two of the colleges, Jackson and Campbell promised to send a group of representatives from sections of Mississippi to this planned meeting. I am keeping everybody alerted. Because of the success of one of the veterans meeting in Brookhaven, Mississippi about six months ago, Mr. James Easom, Assistant Chief of Rehabilitation and Education, Veterans Administration, readily agreed to send a speaker for the meeting.

The meeting will be held at the YWCA building, Farish St. Jackson, Miss. on October 5, 1946 beginning at 9:00 A.M. I have planned this meeting, I feel, at an opportune time. Most of the principal arrangements for the meeting have been made; there are quite a few details I am busy trying to work out. I am asking a committee of three local veterans to assist me in tapering off arrangements.

I am enclosing a copy of the tentative program. Please have a hundred copies of these made and mailed to me as soon as possible. Thanks for any corrections or suggestion you may make. As soon as I get your reflections on the program, I will arrange to get a write-up in both local white papers and the two Negro weeklies.

Next week I am planning a quick trip through the Delta area. Best wishes to you and the staff.

Your friend

Harry L. Wright

HARRY L. WRIGHT

- -

Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 AUBURN AVENUE, N. E. ATLANTA 3, GEORGIA

25 September, 1946

Dear Mrs. Warwick:

Here are the two reports missing from your files. I carried them away among some material I had.

Hope this has not caused you too much trouble!

Sincerely

Harry L. Wright

Field Agent

September 26, 1946

Mr. Harry L. Wright
1244 Pittsburgh Street
Jackson, Mississippi

Dear Mr. Wright:

While Miss Clay was on vacation we paid your September 15th expense account and forgot to deduct the $70.00 advance made to you before you left. Your September 22nd account was for $63.05, so you are still in the red $6.95, which we will deduct from your next expense account. Is this okay, or are you broke?

Miss Clay would like to know what the $18.93 railroad ticket was for on your September 15th account. You failed to fill it in, and she likes to have this on her records.

Were you able to track down those missing reports (July 22nd and 29th)? I can't find a trace of them here, but will keep trying.

Sincerely,

Anna S. Warwick
Secretary to George S. Mitchell

30 Sept. 1946

Mr. Thad Wynn
Director
Southern Trade School
Greenville, Mississippi

Dear Mr. Wynn:

Rev. Rounds gave me your check for ten dollars for my services as guest speaker at the Southern Trade School, Inc. This check was given to me as I was boarding a bus for my trip back to Jackson. I accepted it in order to return it with this letter of thanks.

It was a real opportunity for me to visit your school and to talk with the students. My organization is interested in my visiting such projects as yours and my encouraging veterans to make full use of such advantages; the Council pays for my services and all of my expenses on such trips. I am available at anytime to schools and organizations like yours concerned with the problems of veterans.

I hope to come back to Greenvile and to visit your school again. Best wishes for the success of the useful services you and your staff are rendering to our Negro veterans.

Very truly

HARRY L. WRIGHT
Field Representative

- - - -

PAUL D. WILLIAMS, RICHMOND
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FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT
FRANK W. SPENCER, SAVANNAH
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Southern Regional Council, Inc.
ROOM 432, 63 AUBURN AVENUE, N. E. ATLANTA 3, GEORGIA

A Council to attain, through research and action, the ideals and practices of equal opportunity for all peoples in the South

29 September 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Avenue, N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

I have just returned from a "Paul Revere" ride through the Mississippi Delta Area, awakening veterans to the need for organization.

It's cotton picking time in the Delta, and everybody's mind and effort seems to be toward getting the cotton out of the field. I always learn a great deal about living conditions and employment of Negroes just by passing through an Area. I visited Clarksdale and Greenville; two of the key delta towns.

The only rail route to Clarksdale is by way of Memphis--by train I came down to Clarksdale from Memphis; this stretch of the Delta is the most frequent flooded Area, least developed farms, poorest Negroes and the least educated and the most ruthless white people. All along the way, we picked up some Negro passengers--one such passenger was a woman, with her clothes stuffed in a pasteboard box marked "Arm and Hammer" Soda; she was ragged and dirty, and broken in spirit--I could tell it by her eyes. I helped her to lift her box to the overhead rack. She sat beside me and we talked. I learned a great deal from her about conditions. The only opportunity for betterment Negro Veterans have in this area is to go somewhere else.

Clarksdale is the "gateway" town to the principal Delta Area. On my last visit there I found Veterans hanging around; this time they had gone--Mr. W. W. Nelson, retired mail clerk, and one of the most active community leaders, explained the situation this way; all the dissatisfied veterans have left town, and the ones who could re-adjust themselves have found some way to make a living without going back to the cotton fields.

Mr. Wallace Higgins, principal of the Negro school, said that no improvement had been made in the educational program for Negro veterans. The Negro schools had not done one thing to help in the Veterans Training Program. He knew of only a few Public 16th Negro Veterans on-the-job training program.

Primarily, my visit was to "talk" veterans organizations. Mr. Higgins helped me to locate Mr. Willis H. Hunt, the chairman of a group of veterans who were organizing a post of the VFW. We found Mr. Hunt working on one of the many plastering contract jobs he handles in this Area. We got acquainted--my brother was one of his classmates in college--and I undertook the job of selling the idea of a State Council of Veterans organizations. Thig group of forty-five Negro veterans promised to send one or two representatives to this meeting. The State Department of the VFW has written this group that their charter will be presented to them October 4th. This is to be the first VFW Post for Negroes organized in the state. I am keeping in touch with this group. I made the usual courtesy calls to all of the people with whom I had talked on my last visit. A young veteran, business man, Mr. Charles Stringer, heads the newly organized Negro Chamber of Commerce. This organization recently sponsored a concert of Wings Over Jordan--earned about $2,000 profit. Now, they have money in their pockets and want to know what project is most needed in their town. Most of the members are veterans; this is a hopeful sign.

Greenville lays claim to being the most progressive town in Mississippi. Negro businesses are flourishing here. It seems that every Negro veteran who has saved up a hundred dollars ($100) while overseas, has started opening some kind of business. This is the "cotton selling" season, and the money is flowing into Greenville.

My friend, Reverend Rounds has the "$10-an-hour" job of lecturing to the veteran students of the Southern Trade School, Inc. During my visit I was invited to be the guest speaker. Rev. Rounds made the arrangements. The Southern Trade School, Inc. is one of the schools for Negro veterans only, financed by a group of private white investors, one of the catch-the-Government-money-floating-around schools.

We drove out about two miles from Greenville and as we approached a group of buildings, I took in the scene--there were about ten barn-like buildings; a wooden framework covered over with this imitation-brick weatherboard paper; there was a high barbed-wire prisoner-of-war type fence surrounding the entire area.

Rev. Rounds excorted me into the office. At one end of the office was the white boss, Mr. Thad Wynn, director of the school and his white secretary; in the back extension to the building is the office of the Negro "head man." I was properly introduced--"This is Mr. Wynn," Rev. Rounds, said, and I came up with, " I am Harry Wright," in order to help the Negro get around calling me Mr. Wright to this man. I knew what a struggle Rev. Rounds was having in his mind. Mr. Wynn and his staff were very cordial to me. I visited all of the shops. There was a welding shop, a radio repair shop, farm equipment repair shop, carpentry shop, and an automobile repair shop--alll of these were fairly well equipped. I didn't see any for "white only" signs, but I did see a sign on a toilet and washroom for "instructors only." All of the instructors are white.

Dr. M. #3 - 10-1-46

Rev. Rounds excorted me into a large room where all of the three hundred and fifty veteran-students were assembled to hear me talk. After getting a hearty laugh from them on my joke about my grandmother attending church, I told them something about Negro Veterans all over the South and some facts about our fellows in Mississippi. Then I talked about how much good it would do us to organize all over Mississippi. They passed the hat around and collected enough money to send a representative to the organizational meeting of the Council in Jackson. After my talk I could hardly get away from the fellows. Here is the best opportunity in Mississippi to organize a large group of veterans--threehundred and fifty veterans just waiting for someone to come along and organize them.

Here is my appraisal of the Southern Trade School, Inc.: This school is organized solely to profit from the Government's Veteran Training Program for Negroes in Mississippi; all of the profits go to private white investors, all of the instructors are white; after all of the money for veterans' training has been spent, educational facilities for Negroes will be no better due to these kind of private profit-making schools, but this school offered to Negro veterans a chance for a trade education that the state has refused to give them. Negro veterans know the value of learning, working and fighting. They are soberly making use of this knowledge here.

Best wishes to you and the staff.

Your friend,

Harry L. Wright

Harry L. Wright

Ethw

281 Arlington Ave.
Elmhurst, Illinois
October 3, 1946

Mr. Harry L. Wright
Field Representative,
Veterans Service Division,
Southern Regional Council
63 Auburn Ave. N.E.
Atlanta, 3, Georgia

Dear Sir,

I am doing some research work dealing with Negro Veterans Problems, but have had some difficulty in location any data on the subject.

I would greatly appreciate it if you could send me any literature dealing with Negro Veterans Problems your office may have published.

I have a copy of "A Survey of Veterans Service for Negroes in Arkansas". If you have published other articles like it please send me a copy of each. I shall be glad to pay for them.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas A Whitcomb

President
Mrs. W. H. Ratliff
Sherard, Miss

Vice President
Mrs. E. U. Robinson
216 N. Washington St.
Cookeville, Tenn.

Recording Secretary
Mrs. J. Roy Jones
5618 Colonial Drive
Columbia 40, S. C.

Treasurer
Mrs. C. O. Hinton
1120 Main St.
Paris, Ky.

SECRETARIES

Home Work
Mrs. C. C. Sapp
Box 117
Albany, Ga.

Foreign Work
Mrs. J. M. Johnston
337 Rosalind Ave., S.
Roanoke 14, Va.

Christian Social Relations and Local Church Activities
Mrs. M. E. Tilly
1013 Highland View, N. E.
Atlanta, Ga.

Organization and Promotion
Mrs. R. M. Howell
Box 426
Albertville, Ala.

Missionary Education and Service
Mrs. D. R. Little
302 Lawrence St.
Marietta, Ga.

Wesleyan Service Guild
Mrs. K. W. Warden
2284 Evelyn St.
Memphis, Tenn.

Student Work
Mrs. David J. Cathcart
1330 La Salle St.
Jacksonville 7, Fla.

Youth Work
Mrs. Dwight L. Fouts
Weldon, N. C.

Children's Work
Mrs. H. R. Cogburn
2505 Springhill Ave.
Mobile 17, Ala.

Literature and Publications
Mrs. Stanley Wilson
2212 15th St.
Meridian, Miss.

Supplies
Mrs. Glenn C. James
4744 N. E. 1st Court
Miami 37, Fla.

Spiritual Life and Message
Mrs. W. L. Mullikin
109 West Cambridge St.
Greenwood, S. C.

Status of Women
Mrs. Marvin D. Eblen
425 S. Elm St.
Henderson, Ky.

Missionary Personnel
Mrs. B. R. Stout
1621 Riverside Drive
Knoxville, Tenn.

CHAIRMAN

Research Committee
Mrs. J. W. Payne
Cherryville, N. C.

Southeastern Jurisdiction

Woman's Society of Christian Service

The Methodist Church

10-3-1946

Dear Mr. Wright -

We are having our meeting on Negro Ed. in Miss at Galloway memorial church Oct 29th - 10:00 AM.

If you can be with us and serve as one of our Resource persons! -, We will be most grateful.

We are not having a set program, but will center our discussions around three topics - Buildings - Salaries and the G. I. Program. Mr Jas Eason will assist also.

I will send you a program as soon as we get them mimeo'd -

I hope you can be with us -

Mrs. Ratliff -

10.50 ~~[illegible]~~
120.00
97.10
227.60
164.00
63.60
20.00 xxx
43.60

~~[illegible]~~
59.00 suit
25.00 cash
35.00 cash
35.00 [illegible]
10.00 contribution
164

Field Agent

October 8, 1946

Mr. Harry L. Wright
1244 Pittsburgh Street
Jackson, Mississippi

Dear Harry:

This is to confirm our arrangement about official station.

I suggest we change your official station from Atlanta to Jackson, Mississippi. Then when you do come to Atlanta, you will draw travel expense. When in Jackson, none.

However, when at Jackson you incur official expense, such as postage, telephone, telegraph, or entertainment in getting your job done, that should be reported as official expense. If you agree, this arrangement would be effective October 9, 1946.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION
Branch Office No. 9
420 Locust Street
St. Louis 2, Missouri

October 9, 1946

YOUR FILE REFERENCE:

IN REPLY REFER TO: SL7D

Mr. Harry L. Wright,
Field Representative,
Veterans Service,
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
Jackson, Mississippi.

Dear Sir:

With reference to our wire of October 7, 1946, please accept our regrets that Mr. Paul B. Kinder cannot confer with you on October 15, 1946 in this office.

Prearranged schedule of work, field visits, and conferences make it impossible to hold a conference as requested in your wire of October 7, 1946 until sometime the early part of next month.

As stated in your wire, you are interested in discussing farm training problems of Negro veterans in the State of Arkansas. Therefore, it is suggested that the conference be held in our Little Rock Regional Office where on-the-spot action may be taken if necessary.

We will correspond with the Little Rock Regional Office and ask them for a tentative date or dates on which a meeting may be held, and in turn will give you that information in sufficient time for you to arrange your schedule to be present.

If this plan does not meet with your approval, we would appreciate hearing from you immediately.

Very truly yours,

C. B. Sherry

C. B. SHERRY, Director,
Vocational Rehabilitation
and Education Service.

An inquiry by or concerning an ex-service man or woman should, if possible, give veteran's name and file number, whether C, XC, K, N, or V. If such file number is unknown, service or serial number should be given.

Oct. 12, 1946

JACKSON ADVOCATE, JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

EDI

Dues can be paid annually for life. Cost you a buck a year. Sixi bts of your dough goes for subscriptions to the two Legion publications and two bits goes to the national office. The Legion favors compulsory military training, opposes the Wagner-Murray-Dingell Social Security Bill, refused to comit itself on FEPC, transfer of USES to the states and anti-poll tax legislation.

Veterans of Foreign Wars: Lots of dough behind this one. Has a legislative lobbyist here in Washington which it pays $10,000 a year (ten thousand, that is) to lobby for veterans legislation. Throws a lot of weight around in the Veterans Administration. Doesn't mention race or color in its constitution, but leaves membership to discretion of state commanders who may approve or reject colored organizations. If you are south of the border and join this one you will be in a Jim Crow chapter. Offers the service of a national service officer. Jim Crow clubhouses, plenty pretty suits and parades and a Hell raising convention every year. Agrees with Legion on compulsory military training, undecided on minimum wage bill, surprised everyone at its last convention by going all out for Wagner-Ellender-Taft housing bill, stuck its tongue in its cheek on FEPC, anti-poll tax and transfer of USES to states. Cost you two bucks to join but has a minimum fee of three bucks a year. Must have had foreign service to join.

American Veterans Committee: Loudest, lustiest and most liberal of all vet groups. Constitution forbids Jim Crow chapters, has colored vets on national planning committee, called communistic by the VFW because of the way it looks out for your people, had one tussle with Jim Crow over an interracial housing project in Washington, D. C., took one look at the racial restrictive covenant on the property site, cancelled the whole project and came out with colors flying. Was officially recognized by the Veterans Administration last week but Bilbo has sworn never to let it get a Congressional charter. Criticized for accepting Merchant marine and war correspondents but seems to thive on criticism. Sidesteps the cumpulsory training issue, goes all out for minimum wage, Wagner-Murry-Dingell social security bill, opposed Case anti-strike bill, favored FEPC, fought return of USES to states, support Wagner-Ellender-Taft housing bill and fights for anti-poll tax legislation. Cost you a five spot to join for one year and there are no assessments.

American Veterans of World War II (Amvets): Surprise outfit of World War II. Let AVC do a lot of yelling while it quitely went about getting a charter from Congress and becoming the first World War II outfit to be recognized by the VA. Put on a bold front for colored veterans memberships until it looked as if it would be able to buy a swanky housing project in the District of Columbia. Did an about-face then and told tan yanks they could not become members of the cooperative and live in the project. Sits back and plays both ends from the middle, being non-committal on issues like poll tax, FEPC, minimum wage and housing bill; wins lots of friends by walking the middle of the road but loks the other way and allows it chapters to cater to Mr. Jim Crow. Cost you four bucks to join, offers you national service officer and some of the smoothest national staff operators i nthe country.

October 12, 1946 Jackson Advocate

UP AND DOWN FARISH STREET

By PERCY GREENE

By Percy Greene

Farish Street Saturday Night: A lot of Vets are around talking about what theyare going to do when they get that Terminal leave pay from the government, and some of the things that I have heard them talk about doing with that dough, as we gather around our Fish and Beer of a Saturday Night is in the general direction of "Nothing," as per usual, especially as it relates to the sum total of their future welfare, progress, security and happiness. From most of the talk is looks liked to me that most of them fellows just don't know what to do when they get the money, aside from keeping it, a fact which to fit into the equation. Well, as we were talking about the matter in a meeting the other day ups steps a big man from the VETERANS ADMINISTRATION IN WASHINGTON and says now the vets can renew their NATIONAL SERVICE LIFE INCURANCE of $10,000 by paying just TWO MONTHS PREMIUMS which will amount to not more than $15.00 for whole thing. Now $10,000 worth of life insurance on Aunt Haggar's Children, one at a time, is something that you aint going to get just any where and anytime, especially at an average of about $6.00 per month. Comin back to that terminal leave money. Now its gonna be paid in a bond that you can't use and get cashed but it can be used to renew the National Service Life Insurance Now, I don't know of any other better way for a vet to use his terminal leave pay, and what's more I don't think anybody else knows abetter way, if you asks me Well I know a lot of folks like Preachers, Teachers and what not whose eenb advising vets . . but now is the time to poin in a help give some real advise by urging every vet to take advantage of the opportunity anduse that TERMINAL LEAVE PAY to renew his NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE POLICY of $10,000.

VETERAN'S WHIRL

By Jame's L.Hicks NNPA Staff Writer

Which Way Joe

Now is the time for all good veterans to join one veterans organization or another.

Three months after VJ-Day new veteran organizatoins were springing up all over the country. Today they are dying out just as fast as they were organized. Only the strong remai nand here is a look at the strongest:

The American Legion: Probably the strongest, one of the most conservative, recently broke a precedent and permitted several Jim Crow chapters to be organized in th south, even more recently denied a chapter to an interracial group of vets in the District of Columbia. It offers colored veterans the benefit of a national service officer, mixed chapters in the north, Jim Crow chapters in the south and the opportunity to wear a flashy uniform in parades. Several of the Jim Crow chapters have excellent club houses.

PAUL D. WILLIAMS, RICHMOND
PRESIDENT
P. B. YOUNG, NORFOLK
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT
FRANK W. SPENCER, SAVANNAH
SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT
CARTER WESLEY, HOUSTON
THIRD VICE-PRESIDENT
CHARLES S. JOHNSON, NASHVILLE
CHAIRMAN, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
GUY B. JOHNSON
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RAY WARWICK
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

Southern Regional Council, Inc.

ROOM 432, 63 AUBURN AVENUE, N. E. ATLANTA 3, GEORGIA

A Council to attain, through research and action, the ideals and practices of equal opportunity for all peoples in the South

13 October, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Ave. N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

I am very anxious to see that the Veterans Committee organized last week does not end with the adjournment of the meeting. I have been very cautious about organizing groups because an organization that fails to render any real services sets us back further than we originally were.

Tuesday, I met with the Planning Committee Mr. Dorsey Griffin, Chairman, Mr. Estenoce Wolfe and Mr. McClain. These are the men whom I am counting on to keep the organization alive. Here are the plans we laid to keep building the organization in a quiet and sober way: I obtained the names of all the

PAUL D. WILLIAMS, RICHMOND
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Principals of Negro schools in the state and turned them over to this committee, Mr. Griffin and his committee are writing a personal letter to each of these persons, asking the name and address of some two outstanding young veterans in their communities. From these letters a complete directory will be made of Mississippi interested veterans.

A few Negro leaders who are not veterans have stated their interest in Negro Veterans; they are people who have the resources to really help. I suggested that these leaders be asked to serve as advisors to the group.

This committee is writing letters to a number of sources asking to be listed on the mailing list. Please mail any material our office receive on Veterans to Mr. Dorsey W. Griffin, c/o Security Life Insurance Co. Farish Street, Jackson, Miss. The Committee plans to write a semi-monthly newsletter to veterans contacted. Mr. Percy Green, Editor of the Jackson Advocate has consented to give us a column in his paper on request.

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This committee plans to meet once each week until the projects are under way.

Most of my time this week has been spent in getting in to talk with people who helped us with the meeting, thanking them for their cooperation and getting reflections on our effort to help Negro Veterans.

I am enclosing an article rather an editorial published by the Jackson Advocate. Its really good. It was inspired by the discussions in our meeting. Also enclosed is Mr. Green's popular column giving our advice on National Service Life Insurance.

A few days ago, I received the attached letter from one of the veteran representatives, it shows just how much our getting together has inspired action. You can be sure that I am getting this information to this man.

Mr. Green has discussed the plight of Negro Veterans in Mississippi with Dr. S. D. Redmon, reputedly the richest Negro in Mississippi and one of the richest in the South.

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Dr. Redmon proposed to call a state-wide mass meeting of Negroes to protest Veterans problems. Dr. Redmon promises to finance this project.

One week before this proposed mass meeting and before the Conference at the Galloway Church Mr. Green has promised to write a front page editorial on the evils of the private schools, reaping the benefits of Veterans education instead of the badly needed Negro public school system.

Mr. Reddy has asked me to assist him in getting several qualified Negro Veterans to apply for a position that VA Officials have promised to some recommended Negroes. I have located and interviewed two qualified Negro Veterans.

Things in Mississippi are beginning to break, I have quietly tried to keep my "fingers in the pie".

Best wishes to you and the staff.

Your Friend
Henry L. Wright

Field Agent

October 15, 1946

Mr. Harry L. Wright
1206 NE 9th Street
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Dear Harry:

Your letter of October 13 was most encouraging. I am sure you are going at the thing wisely and that it will do a great deal in the State.

We have made note of the arrangements about your check. Air mail, etc.

Here is Mr. Rembert's letter back again.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Would you mind making your expense accounts out in duplicate, one for Miss Clay and one for me?

Miss Clay is still wondering what the $18.95 ticket is for on your September 15 expense account, please.

AW

Ck HLW

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FARM SECURITY ADMINISTRATION
Parry Avenue at Commerce
Dallas 1, Texas

IN REPLY REFER TO
R8-JHW

OCT 17 1946

Mr. Harry L. Wright, Field Representative
Veterans Services Division
1244 Pittsburg Street
Jackson, Mississippi

Dear Mr. Wright:

Just a few days ago, I had a very interesting talk with Mr. Jewel M. Tatum of Beaumont, Texas, who had come into the office for a conference with Mr. E. Lee Ozbirn, regional director, Farm Security Administration.

As a result of our conversation and his acquaintance with Mr. Ozbirn, and the regional set-up, he was prompted to suggest a conference to work out details for developing strategy to improve the veterans' training program here in Texas. We thought it would be a good thing for you, Mr. Tatum and myself to get together and discuss this matter.

Having visited several of the training programs in Oklahoma, and having had extensive talks with Robert Lee, contact representative in agriculture, who is in charge of the work in the eastern half of the state, I'm of the opinion that, if the program continues to develop in Oklahoma, commensurate with the start that has been made, we should be able to use it as a means of convincing the Veterans' Administration here in Texas that the system, based on the Oklahoma pattern, will succeed here.

Since Oklahoma is a part of this region, I have on numerous occasions come in contact and worked with the present four Negro contact representatives for Veterans Administration in Oklahoma; two of these being in industry and two in agriculture, one each serving the eastern and western half of the state. It is our belief that with the emphasis being placed on veterans' preference for farm loans, we should be able to develop a program of mutual interest.

I shall be pleased to hear from you about this matter.

Sincerely yours,

John H. Williams

John H. Williams,
Sr. Administrative Asst.
Region VIII

FOR VICTORY
BUY
UNITED STATES DEFENSE BONDS AND STAMPS

Field Agent

October 17, 1946

Mr. Harry L. Wright
c/o Mr. D. W. McClendon
1206 NE Ninth Street
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Dear Harry:

I am about through with my Louisiana article. For comparison, with some other States, I need to know approximately how many people were getting job training in Arkansas and then again in Mississippi, as of a date somewhere around September 30, 1946. I would have it include all forms of job training other than farm training. That would include cooperative job training and straight job training. I exclude from these forms full-time institutional training.

I am not concerned at this point with a race breakdown - just the total. If you could put through a call or two and collect a round figure for each State, for that date or thereabouts, and send it to me by wire, I would appreciate it.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

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October 19, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Ave. N. E.
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

My conference with Mr. Paul B. Kinder was cancelled. His telegram stated that an explanatory letter was to follow.

I have arrived here in Oklahoma to dig up some current data on my Oklahoma Article. I am working on several other problems relative to the employment of Negro Veterans in the New Regional VA offices.

I'll write you a long letter on details as soon as my survey is shaped up.

Your friend,

Harry B. Wright

Harry B. Wright

P.S. The $18.92 ticket listed on my expense account September 15th was the ticket Mrs. Warwick purchased for an upper berth from Atlanta to Jackson.

1200 N. E. 7th Street
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
October 10, 1946

Mr. Harry L. Wright
63 Auburn Avenue N.E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Mr. Wright:

I had hoped by this time that you would have returned to the City so we could renew our acquaintance. Just today, I saw the McClendons who expressed interest in our meeting each other and who reassured me of the recommendation of the job which we discussed while you were here. For this recommendation and for your fine consideration, I wish to express my sincere thanks. And though our acquaintance was short and our conversation brief, it was all very pleasant, interesting and enlightening.

Concerning the job of Vocational Adviser for which you recommended me and for which I applied to the Veterans Administration in Muskogee, Oklahoma - that office did respond by sending a letter of inquiry asking my preference between Oklahoma City and Muskogee should an appointment be made. The letter was returned immediately with Oklahoma City as my preference, - thiswas in the month of August. Since then, I have received no further communication from that office.

On September 3rd, a new regional office was established here in Oklahoma City to serve 47 counties of Oklahoma. This office is now in operation with a force of 733 employees and will employ more Veterans from time to time. Of this number, the information I have today is that there are only five Negro Veterans employed in classified jobs. They are as follows - three as Training Officers, one as a clerk-typist and one as a secretary. This number, I believe, to be too few and inadequate to serve the needs of our Veterans in the state; I further believe that we are entitled to more jobs and better jobs in the Veterans Administration. There are others in this organization who believe themselves to be qualified for these jobs and who think as I do. Incidently, only one of the five was employed directly by the new office. The others were transfers from other regional offices.

There seems to exist a discriminatory practice in hiring Negro Veterans or at least a gentlemen's agreement among the higher ups to minimize the hiring of same. This observation is, of course, a personal opinion and I have no factual information to substantiate it. For this reason, I have written you for any advice or suggestion on this matter.

Thanking you in advance for an early reply, I remain,

Yours very truly,

Albert V. Alexander

Albert V. Alexander

P.S. The VA manager is Frank S. Cleckler. The personnel director is Harold H. Leeper.

Seven Veteran Contact Men Hired in State

Seven new contact representatives have been employed by the regional veterans administration office here and will receive training in the local office, Frank S. Cleckler, VA manager, announced Tuesday.

Cleckler said this is the first regional office to train contact men. He said the men will be located in the regional office and in the new field offices now located at Ada, Shawnee, Ponca City, Clinton, Lawton, Enid and Norman.

Other offices will be opened in Ardmore, Chickasha, Stillwater, Woodward and Altus. Representatives in the new field stations will visit the smaller towns in their areas on a regular schedule.

Lawrence Johnston, St. Louis, field supervisor of contact representatives, will be in charge of the training that will begin Monday.

The new contact representatives include:

Raymond E. Duncan, 35, 4327 Butler place; John D. Phillips, 39, 2225 NW 30; Howard E. Richardson, 33, Dill; James Guilliam Chadd, Cleveland; James Douglas Buck, 30, Stigler; John R. Morley, Tipton, and James V. Wells, 35, McAlester.

16,825 State Veterans Using GI Rights Bill

The fact that Oklahoma veterans are taking advantage of the GI bill of rights was shown Tuesday by the veterans administration September report, which revealed 16,825 are now enrolled in schools or on-the-job training.

Frank S. Cleckler, VA manager, said 3,901 of this group are taking on-the-job training and 12,924 veterans are enrolled in various schools.

Under public law 16, which included disabled veterans, there were 571 trainees in job training at the end of the month, and 480 taking institutional and co-operative training, Cleckler added.

OKLAHOMA CITY TIMES

One in Ten VA Workers Here Is Handicapped

Frank S. Cleckler, manager of the veterans' administration regional office at NW 10 and Broadway, announced Tuesday that one out of every 10 employes in the regional VA office here has some sort of physical handicap.

He added that the work of handicapped persons is on par with the other workers. The statement was made as the second day of "Nationally Employ the Handicapped Week" opened.

Cleckler said the VA and other offices in industry here have found that there is a place for these handicapped workers—if they are given a job to fit their capabilities.

Of the 733 employes in the VA office, 73 of them are disabled veterans. Many of them are employed as typists and clerks, but others have administrative positions.

All physically-impaired persons must be fully qualified for the position. All are required to compete with non-handicapped persons on the basis of civil service qualifications, rules and regulations, Cleckler said.

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION

JOSEPH L. EGAN
PRESIDENT

1201

SYMBOLS

DL = Day Letter
NL = Night Letter
LC = Deferred Cable
NLT = Cable Night Letter
Ship Radiogram

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JY 3 DL GOVT PD

BROOKLEY FIELD ALA. OCT 8th,1946

HARRY L. WRIGHT

1244 PITTSBURG STREET JACKSON MISS

SPRE ARRANGED SCHEDULE OF WORK WILL NOT PREMIT CONFERENCE WITH MR. PAUL B. KINDER OCTOBER 15th, EXPLANATORY LETTER WILL FOLLOW.

ADMR VA VR OFC

NO 9 ST LOUIS MO

MOORE DEPUTY

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

Field agents

October 22, 1946

Mr. Harry L. Wright
1244 Pittsburgh Street
Jackson, Mississippi

Dear Harry:

Paul Williams came in yesterday for awhile. You know he is the president of the Council.

He is much impressed with what you and the others have been doing. He hopes that you would be willing to make a little report on your field work at the one-day general membership meeting of the Council, November 14. It was his idea that it should be written out. I am not much for writing out, but he is the boss.

I suggest that you write out something to shape up your ideas, and that you and I go over it the day before the meeting, and that you then have the write-out in hand and say what you want to say independent of the write-out.

My guess would be that the best thing to do would be to lay out very briefly your general objectives in your travels. Then tell a couple of incidents that point up the need for a service of this kind and improvement of the services given by the standard agencies, and let it go at that. But you figure out for yourself the best way for you to get across the work that you and the other field agents have done.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Field Agent

October 22, 1946

Mr. Harry L. Wright
1244 Pittsburgh Street
Jackson, Mississippi

Dear Harry:

Mr. John H. Williams of Dallas sent me a copy of his letter to you of October 18.

Maybe it would be a good thing for you and Williams and Tatum to get together and make plans for improvement in Texas. If you will let me know the date selected, I will try to get to the foregathering. Probably the best place would be at Dallas because it has a branch office of the VA. The regional office is at Waco which is not impossibly far off.

Tatum's address is 2020 Cable Street, Beaumont, Texas.

I suggest that you correspond with Tatum and Williams directly.

I should think it would be good if you got Williams to make a date in advance with the deputy administrator of VA at Dallas. The idea would be that after the three or four of us had conferred and gotten our story straight, we would go over to VA and see the boss man.

Later on, you tell me what you think best to do and I will try to conform.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

~~VETERANS ADMINISTRATION~~

~~Guthrie, Okla.~~

October 26, 1946

YOUR FILE REFERENCE:

IN REPLY REFER TO: S-714h

320 West Springer
Guthrie, Okla.

Mr. Harry L. Wright
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Avenue N.E.
Atlanta 3, Georga.

Dear Sir:

I certainly regret that I was unable to see you before your departure, however I wish to here express my appreciation for the interest you have shown in the veterans in the state of Oklahoma.

It is my belief that your contact with the administrative personnel, manager, chief of vocational rehabilitation, and personnel officers, has surely paved the way for giving consideration to the employment of additional Negro personnel.

I am submitting herewith a copy of the information you requested concerning my duties and responsibilities.

I shall be glad to hear from you on any further developments pertaining to the information received.

Very truly yours,

Herbert Q. Hibler
HERBERT Q. HIBLER,
Ass't Training Officer.

An inquiry by or concerning an ex-service man or woman should, if possible, give veteran's name and file number, whether C, XC, K, N, or V. If such file number is unknown, service or serial number should be given.

I am an employee of the Veterans Administration, Vocational Rehab and Education Divison and the only Negro Assistant Training Officer, CAF-7, located in the Regional Office of the Veterans Administration; my duties in nature are two-fold. Field duties as training officer, and administrative responsibility in coordinating and presenting to my immediate supervisor, general supervisor, and chief of vocational rehabilitation and education division the opportunities for Negro veterans to receive their benefits under the Servicemen's Readjustment Act, Public Laws 346 & 16.

I am requested to collaborate with Vocational Advisement and Guidance advisors in determining a satisfactory occupational objective for "disabled Negro veterans"; stipulating in the training officer's notes the amount of institutional and on-the-job training recommended for the vocational rehabilitation of the veteran determined to be vocationally handicaped.

It is my responsibility to contact business establishments, employment offices, and educational institutions to develop training opportunities for disabled veterans.

Upon finding establishments that are willing to accept disabled veterans, it is required that I secure a 1904, Agreement to Train on the Job for Disabled Veterans, make an investigation report giving the training objective available, entrance wage, journeyman's wage, my recommendation as to whether it should be approved or disapproved; then comes the formulation of the training outline, induction of the veterans into training, proper execution of the 1906, Notice of Entrance into training, and the monthly supervision of the veteran as to progress, pay received, and conduct in training.

The buying of tools for veterans, issuing of form 2211, Purchase Order, is accomplished after the veterans submits a tool request and it is cleared through the Tool Procurement Section for correct items and veterans entitlement to tools.

It is my responsibility to aid the State Accrediting Agency in the approval and re-survey of Negro business establishments approved for training veterans under Public Law 346 to determine the availability of a satisfactory training opportunity, including the existence of a training outline, and one on file, also the establishment of a progressive wage policy if none previously existed and the supervision of the veteran in training as to progress, conduct in training, previous educational attainments, beginning wage and journeyman's wage; after having ascertained these facts I must recommend approval or disapproval of the establishment to give training under Public Law 346.

The things most important for me to know in the performance of my duties are the Public Laws 346, and amendments, Public Law 16, Bulletins and Circulars pertaining to the Education and Training Section.

I feel that the job knowledge acquired from my previous experiences as a licensed journeyman electrician, state of Oklahoma and an instructor for 18 months in the Army Air Forces Technical Schools at Chanute Field, Illinois and Tuskegee, Alabama in the Technical Trade Department of aircraft propellers, aircraft engines, and inspection division, also 18 months as assistant foreman or leadman with Douglas Aircraft Company in sheet metal assembly departments, have greatly aided me in collaborating with vocational advisement in helping to select occupational objectives for veterans who are advised.

It is necessary occasionally that I contact my immediate supervisor for information on new material and extremely difficult problems.

My personal contacts are with veterans and others who are interested in receiving information about on-the-job training or institutional training.

It is necessary that I explain the correct procedure for the veteran to receive benefits while in training, Example: A veteran coming under Public Law 346 is first instructed to make application, submitting discharge and evidence of marriage or other dependency evidence, further informed as to what should bedone when his certificate of eligibility is received and how much subsistence is awarded to men with or without dependents.

It is important that I check all applications, documents and papers of veterans submitted for correctness to eliminate further correspondence and facilitate prompt action in favor of the veteran.

It is also required that I supervise one clerk-typist, CAF-2, in all correspondence and filing.

STUDY OF NEGRO EDUCATION IN MISSISSIPPI

GALLOWAY MEMORIAL METHODIST CHURCH
(Small Auditorium)

Jackson, Mississippi--10:00 A.M.--October 29, 1946

The Methodist Women are calling a meeting to study the present status of Negro education in Mississippi and to see what steps can be taken to improve our state facilities.

Expert speakers from State Boards will bring statistical facts concerning School Buildings, Salaries, School Lunches, and Veterans Educational Problems. Time will be given for questions and discussion. Will you come and help us work toward a solution of this important problem? We hope to adjourn by 3:00 P.M.

The following persons will appear on the program:

Dr. W. B. Selah---Paster, Galloway Church----------Invocation
Mr. P. H. Easom------ ----------State Board of Education
Representative from----------State Building Commission
Mrs. N. P. Johnson---Jeans Teacher ----------Coahoma County
Mr. James L. Easom----------Veterans' Bureau
Miss F.O. Alexander----------State Board of Education
Mr. ~~Wilbur~~ Wright-A veteran who has studied the veterans problems
Miss Florence Allen----------State Board of Education

We are asking the speakers to bring their information in a typewritten form to be used in our "Findings" which are to be mimeographed for distribution after the meeting.

Mrs. W. H. Ratliff, Sherard, Mississippi
President, Southeastern Jurisdiction W. S. C. S.

Mrs. Paul Arrington, Jackson, Mississippi
Chairman Education & Cultivation, W. S. C. S.

Mrs. J. W. Hollandsworth, Booneville, Miss.
Secretary C. S. R. North Mississippi

Mrs. J. W. Clark, Utica, Mississippi
Secretary C. S. R. Mississippi Conference

Will you have your material typed, ready for our "findings"? - Not more than 10 or 12 minutes for the talk - but as much material as you wish for the findings -

Mrs. Ratliff

October 30, 1946

Mr. Harry L. Wright
1244 Pittsburgh Street
Jackson, Mississippi

Dear Harry:

I think your Oklahoma article is very fine.

I have done some touch-up editing, and there are a few additional places where I need your help to get a point or two perfectly clear.

As you will be coming in soon, I will hold it till you get here, and we can then turn it over for printing.

I got my Louisiana one done just the other day and sent it to the printer. Your Oklahoma one will make number four.

I am planning to do an article giving statistics on GI educational benefits by races for the whole South, so keep your eyes and notebook peeled for State figures that I can use. I will tell you later exactly what I want, but I think you pretty well know anyway.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

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6 October, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Ave. N. E.
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

I often remember the remark you attributed to your friend Dr. Bassette that 'an idea planted in a community is immortal'.

Saturday morning at 9:00 A.M. sixteen veterans gathered in the conference room of the local Negro Branch of the YWCA building - they represented veterans organizations and interested veterans from Brookhaven, Tylertown, Crystal Springs, Tunica and Jackson. This was the organizational meeting of the Mississippi Council of veterans Organizations.

Informally we opened the meeting with words of a prayer and a song. I undertook the job explaining the aims of the conference. In getting close to the problem I asked each veteran to give his name and address and an outline of the conditions of the veterans program in his home town. They told the stories that I know only too well - of Negro veterans being afraid to go in to apply for certain benefits from the veterans service offices available to veterans, which is usually the Red Cross in small communities, because local white people were not in favor of Negroes getting these things. They related an instance of the lack of interest of Negro veterans in such a town as Tunica, because they had to travel too far to reach some office of the VA.

The only ones of these veterans who represented some veteran organization were the Jackson members of the AVC. These stories from around the state arose the fighting spirit of everybody present.

After my talk, I introduced the speaker from the state office of the VFW. He was the young lawyer, Mr. Dixon Pyles, defense attorney for the Craft Case and for the Willie Magee Case (Negro accused of raping, sentenced to death, unjustly and ordered a new trial by the U.S. Supreme Court). Mr. Pyles explained to this group that the VFW were welcoming Negro veterans to establish posts. The VFW, he said was not only welcoming Negro veterans but were going to hire a full time Negro organizer. Mr. Pyles related how a young group of veterans oft the VFW fought old-line VFW members policy in order to clear the way for posts for Negro veterans.

Then Mr. Pyles talked on race relation in Mississippi and the South - he was for equal every kind of opportunity for Negroes, fully. Mr. Pyles said that when he crammed into a tank on the European front and he was taught that he was doing this only for keeping the ideals of democracy alive for all the peoples of the world. When he came home to Mississippi he still felt that he couldn't just forget the things he felt he had been fighting to help. He asked all the registered voters to hold up their hands, only five hands were held. "If any of you fellows have any trouble registering to vote I'll help you out", Mr. Pyles said. He urged everybody to vote and to take the words he had said back home - here is our opportunity.

The Afro-American Veterans, Inc. is one of these shameful veterans organizations that sprang up after the last war - its leaders are the backward old country-preacher type. I actually had to insisted that this organization to send a representative. The State Adjutant of this organization, Mr. W. M. Carter came for the organization. Mr. Carter said that he had been working with the Afro-American Veterans for ten years. The young World War II veterans needed the leadership and the experience of older War I veterans therefore it would be the wise thing for Negro veterans to join the Afro-American veterans. As far as Mr. Carter represented to us this statement summed up the purposes of his organization. Mr. Carter's whole talk didn't contain more than one or two intelligent sentences. He represented graphically the kind of Negro veterans leaders we did not want.

The Jackson Chapter of the American Veterans Committee, Inc. has one hundred and ninety members and an additional one hundred veterans who will become members as soon as their subsistence allowances checks are received. The Chairman of the Chapter represented his organization to the meeting. Mr. Myles is a senior at Jackson College, clean-cut and bright. "Citizens first and veterans second", is the motto of the AVC, he said and developed his talk around that subject. He told of the hopes and the plans of the AVC and what organizing would mean to Negro veterans and all of Mississippi. Mr. Myles explained in simple terms the mechanics of getting a chapter of the AVC started.

The morning session of the conference ended with an outline of veterans benefits available under the GI Bill. Mr. J. R. Borton of the regional office of the VA was the speaker.

In clear-cut terms , Mr. Borton explained rights of veterans and gave the names and addresses of officials to contact. After talking an hour on the program, Mr. Borton suggested that interested veterans wait until the end of the meeting then he would spend as much time as they wanted to talk with him about personal veterans problems. He talked an additional forty minutes after the meeting.

The evening session began at 6:30 PM, Mr. Dorsey W. Griffin read an excellent outline for the organization. Mr. Griffin was elected temporary chairman of the Council. A planning committee of three veterans were appointed to work with Mr. Griffin to get the organization going. The two committeemen are Mr. Estemore Wolfe, and Mr. Walter McClain. This committee planned a Tuesday meeting.

By chance I found that Mr. Dave Albright, Assistant to General Bradley on Negro Affairs was passing throught Mississippi - spending only a few hours to get what he said General Bradley told him to do, " Go down there (South) Albright and get the true picture of what is going on". Mr. Percy Green helped me to locate Mr. Albright. After introducing myself and telling that I worked with Dr. Mitchell, we got along fine. I told him about the meeting and what we were trying to do over here in Mississippi. In order to stay with us he cancelled his plane reservations.

I arranged a conference with President Reddix of Jackson College. Mr. Reddix, Mr. Percy Green and I gave Mr. Albright an insight into the affairs of Negro veterans in Mississippi. Mr. Albright gave us the usual official VA speech that I am hearing from white officials all around the South. I knew what to expect from him by my discussions with you - so I was prepared. I told him specific problems we had in Mississippi and we wanted him to advise us how to solve just those specific problems. He made some confidential promises. When I see you we'll discuss these things.

There were twenty veterans at the evenning session. Mr. Percy Green made the principal speech - an honest appeal for veterans to get together and a simple way of getting things done. Mr. Albright explained his job with VA; told of the over-all veterans program as it effected Negroes, and urged all veterans to keep their insurance.

Again I asked the veterans to relate the general conditions of Negro veterans in their communities. Mr. Albright heard the real story on the veterans problems as Negroes saw it in Mississippi.

In Mississippi an idea has been planted in several communities throuth-out the state. I am sure that this project in the future will justify our work over here.

Best wishes to you and the staff.

Your friend

Harry L. Wright

HARRY L. WRIGHT

- -

This report was delayed due to the preparation of my speech to the Methodist Young Conference on Education, and my transition from Okla. to Miss.

Harry

Note: attached letter — file for me.

PAUL D. WILLIAMS, RICHMOND
PRESIDENT
P. B. YOUNG, NORFOLK
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FRANK W. SPENCER, SAVANNAH
SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT
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DIRECTOR OF VETERANS SERVICES
RAY WARWICK
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

Southern Regional Council, Inc.
ROOM 432, 63 AUBURN AVENUE, N. E. ATLANTA 3, GEORGIA

November 1,1946

A Council to attain, through research and action, the ideals and practices of equal opportunity for all peoples in the South.

Dr. George S.Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services
Southern Regional Council,Inc.
63 Auburn Ave. N.E.
Atlanta,Georgia

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

Along about election time in Oklahoma Negroes put on a big drive to get some results from former political promises made by people up for re-election; I arrived over in Oklahoma just about this time.

The postmaster in Oklahoma City had been "pressured" into appointing three Negro Postmen and the recently opened Veterans Administrations Regional Office was under "fire" to appoint a Negro Contact Office.

One of my old Marine Corp shipmates,Mr. Jimmy Stewart heads a committee of young progressive Negro Veterans in Oklahoma City.Mr. Stewart's committee had had several conferences with officials of the Veterans Administration in an effort to get Negro personnel in VA. increased,and especially to get a Negro Contact Officer appointed. One of the members of this committee,Mr. Alexander,had written me a letter giving details on the matter.So,it seemed that I arrived in Oklahoma exactly at the right moment.

Mr. Stewart got the members of his committee to-gether and they told me their story.The next day,I arranged a conference with the regional manager and personnel officer.

On the morning of the appointment,I met the personnel officer,Mr.Leeper in his office and he urshered me into the office of Mr.Chleckler,the regional manager.I presented my credentials,and stated my assignment in Oklahoma.I frankly told them that I was interested in the employment of Negro Veterans by their agency,since I had been informed by a member of Negro Veterans in Oklahoma that VA. was giving them a fair chance for employment.I received the usual denial.In the instance of the employment of Contact Officers they had been encouraging only veterans with at least a 10% disability to apply and to take the examinations because these disabled veterans had priority on Contact Officers positions.I told my story of how Negro Veterans were missing many opportunities for bettering their conditions and that of their community because they needed some such official as a Contact Officer to get them on the right track.I told them that I learned from my experience in the Government Service and in the Marines that officials can do anything they really wanted to do and still stay within the "intentions" of the law.

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When the Conference ended,the regional manager asked me to find them one of these "sober thinking down-to-earth plain fellows" who had a good education and plenty common sense about how to get along with all kinds of people", that I had been talking about,and if he had at least a 10% disability he felt that they could find some way of getting him employed even though their office had reached their ceiling. I thanked these gentlemen,and took my leave.I had his promise in mind.

Back in the Negro Community ,I did a little talking and let it be known that I was interested in finding a good veteran who had a disability and was interested in a good government job.The grapevine passed the word around,and by evening of the same day,I had located my man,a young veteran with a 30% disability,a native of Oklahoma and a college graduate.

The next day,I arranged a conference with the personnel officer and introduced the applicant Mr.Swain.Mr. Leeper,the personnel officer questioned the applicant and gave the usual "sweet" talk.The first step Mr.Leeper explained would be for the applicant to take an examination.The examination was arranged for the next evening.Mr. Leeper constantly reminded that only a few people usually passed the examination,my suspicion arose.

I came back over in the Negro Community and found Mr. Jimmy Stewart.While, we were discussing the matter in Mr.Stewart's Office one of Mr. Stewarts friends came in to say hello.Mr. James Whitby was the friend.The conversation passed from veterans to football games.I mentioned that my school Tuskegee's team was quite alright;Mr. Whitby told me that Tuskegee was his school also-the conversation went farther.I found that Mr.Whitby was an honorable discharged Navy Veteran,a college graduate,well experienced in several fields of administrative work,had a 20% disability (physical) interested in accepting an appointment in the Office of the V.A. in Oklahoma,with several years of civic service experience and to top all of this,he had already taken the examination for Contact Officer in New York,passed the examination with a good mark,and had his eligibility moved to Oklahoma.This was a dream come true.

After Mr. Swain finished with the examination,and told me exactly what I suspected, that he didn't pass the Contact Officers' examination.I made another appointment with the V A's personnel officer the next day.When I walked into his office,he greeted me with a smile,and as we sat down to talk he explained how sorry he was that Mr.Swain didn't pass the examination.He never noticed Mr.Whitly who was with me.Though Mr.Swain failed that examination,Mr.Swain would be permitted to be re-examined in about four days, but he felt sure that Mr.Swain would be able to pass then.I expressed my"sorrow" too, with a smile on my face.

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Then I introduced Mr.Whitby,and explained his qualifications and had Mr. Whitby to open his file and show the personnel officer all of his correspondence and certifications.This excited Mr.Leeper quite a bit.He really was impressed by Mr.Whitly.We arranged a date for Mr.Whitly's personal interview with the regional manager.Quite frankly,Mr.Leeper told me he felt almost certain that Mr.Whitby would be appointed.I am watching developments.

During my visit to Oklahoma, ten states' representatives of the Veteran Information Centers were in session in Oklahoma city.It was an all-white affair. General Erkine of the R.R.A. was scheduled to deliver the closing speech;a public announcement stated that anyone who was interested in veterans affairs was invited. The meeting was being held in the City Council's room of the municipal building. Five minutes before General Erkine spoke,I walked into the Council's room and took a seat right in the center row of the representatives.Curious eyes watched me from every section.I took notes on General Erkine's talk,after the meeting I stood in line with everybody else to shake hands and chat with the General.When I came to the General,he said I see you are a Marine,I told him who I was and my work.He asked me to give his regards to Dr.Mitchell whom he knew very well.Then the General wanted to talk to me about a Colored Marine who lived in Oklahoma City who was one of his orderlies during the war.To be polite to others waiting to talk with him,I found some reason to quickly say goodbye.

Best wishes to you and the staff.

Your friend,

Harry L. Wright

Harry L.Wright

HLW:wj

Field agent

November 18, 1946

Mr. Harry L. Wright
1244 Pittsburgh Street
Jackson, Mississippi

Dear Harry:

I called Allbright this morning. He said what they did in that sort of case is to write the manager of the office concerned a letter of endorsement of the man concerned, and good results have frequently resulted from this course.

Allbright said he would accept your estimate of Whitby, and on the basis of that would strongly endorse Whitby.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

423 N. Durland St
Oklahoma City, Okla.
November 10, 1946

Dear Mr. Wright -

Just a line to report my follow-up at the Veterans Administration on the Contact Representative application.

On the Monday following our Friday visit there, I returned with my application, and was directed to return at 2:30 p.m. for Oral Interview.

A Mr. Delaney met with the man we talked with on Friday and queried me about past employment and incidental factors regarding some positions I listed on my application.

Mr. Delaney then directed the other man to indicate on my application that I had taken the written exam in N.Y. and that his Oral Exam finds me qualified.

Such notations were made and the two joined in emphasizing that this office is now one man over the quota and that they could give me no idea whether I'd ever get called to this position.

Jimmy Stewart's group is still putting pressure on the office — mainly to assist one of the men in their group — and I am in favor of their effort, regardless of the person selected.

If I don't land something good soon I'm returning to school after Xmas.

Many thanks for your interest.

I am,

Respectfully yours
Malcolm D. Whitby

Please send a supply of stationery and about 50 copies of my Arkansas Report (Survey)

Harry

Sent
11/19/46
OK

December 9, 1946

Mr. Harry L. Wright
1244 Pittsburgh Street
Jackson, Mississippi

Dear Harry:

There is some move toward starting a veterans council in Virginia. I am to meet with some of the would-be leaders at one PM, December 20th. That is Friday.

I have taken Brazier back on the pay roll, hoping that he can stay on for a good while. It occurred to me that you and Brazier and I might drive to Richmond in the course of the 19th of December and come all or part-way back on the 21st.

This would give Brazier a chance to pick up experience from you, and I could indoctrinate him some too.

If you like the idea, suppose you turn up in Atlanta on the 17th or 18th.

If this idea doesn't suit you, skip it. Brazier is coming anyway, and I could or could not take him up to Richmond as I might choose later.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Field Agent

December 12, 1946

Mr. Harry L. Wright
1244 Pittsburgh Street
Jackson, Mississippi

Dear Harry:

Here is some dope on the second meeting of the Veterans Education Council.

I have written them and told them that I want you to go with me to the meetings. I have asked the proper officials to find you hotel accommodations and suggested that you and I be in the same room.

If you wish to go, my guess is that it would be cheapest for you to start from Jackson or thereabouts rather than to come over to Atlanta first. I suppose the air route would be Jackson-Memphis-Chicago-Detroit. Mrs. Warwick is prepared to send you a travel advance to cover the trip as soon as you let her know.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

1244 Pittsburg Street
Jackson, Miss.
December 17, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Ave. N. E.
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

I am very pleased with the prospects of attending the meeting of the Veterans Education Council of the National Education Association of the United States in Detroit, Michigan January 14 to 17, 1947.

I have made plane reservations to depart from Jackson December 13th. I should arrive in Detroit by midnight of the 13th. A travel advance of $125.00 should cover expenses of the round trip. Please let me know about the hotel reservations as soon as you receive the information.

Sincerely,

Harry L. Wright

Harry L. Wright

Field agent

December 27, 1946

Mr. Harry L. Wright
1244 Pittsburgh Street
Jackson, Mississippi

Dear Harry:

I got the expense account enclosed today.

Of course I do not doubt the validity of the items, but I think you should give me a little more on which to support the ok for the auditors.

Presumably this account covers a certain period. What period; i.e., December when to December when?

I presume also that it covers collection of information for your Mississippi study and arrangements for the interview with the VA officials. If that is the case, why not put that under purpose of trip?

I am embarrassed at being to this degree Government-wise in holding up a payment due, but you know how the Government is.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

31 December, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Ave. N. E.
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

All along, I have assumed the attitude in this work that wherever and whenever I could assist veterans in the areas of the South - that was my job. I have "on my own" pitched into any situation where I felt I could help veterans. In some instances my efforts have visibly been to no avail, in quite a few more instances I have been able to see the good done.

My present official assignment in Mississippi is to write the study on veterans services. However, I find quite a few things more that I am asked to help out with among leaders in Mississippi.

I was in the State capitol a week or more ago, trying to "draw out" from the chief of the vocational agriculture department, Mr. Fatherree, the number of Negro veterans en rolled in farm training. Officials of agencies are always suspicious from the beginning of a so-called educated Negro coming in and asking questions and when once the racial issue is raised it's a job to convince them of your sincerity. When I finished my little speech, Mr. Fatherree explained the administrative setup of the farm training program and added that he would hire twenty-five more Negro agriculture teachers just to work with Negro veterans if only he could find these teachers. I countered with this remark, why not get the agriculture students down at Alcorn to teach these veterans classes on a part-time basis. Mr. Fatherree explained that only six students were enrolled in the senior class, and that the college was so poorly equipped and the educational program so inadequately set up until when a student graduated he wouldn't be qualified to teach agriculture.

Mr. Fatherree state that this was fundamentally the big problem in getting veterans farm training for Negroes in Mississippi really underway. He suggested that I could most usefully help veterans out by getting responsible Negroes in Mississippi to put up a bowl about conditions at Alcorn.

As an example of conditions down at Alcorn State College, Mr. Fatherree read a report he had made on an inspection of the college. Dr. P. H. Easom, Mr. Fatherree, and Dr. Bryant composed a committee representing the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. This committee made a recent inspection of the college in order to determine the rating. Mr. Fatherree's report stated that the college was in the worst condition that he had seen in his twenty year's association with Alcorn, further the report stated that the offices were filthy, the buildings were dirty, the school was understaffed and that the facilities were entirely inadequate. As an example of the condition the report cited an instance when the committee approached one of the pig pens a flock of fifth buzzards flew up from among the pigs. Mr. Fatherree suggested that we interested Negroes get a newspaper to go down there and to write it up.

I caught my friend Mr. Percy Greene in his office and told him the story as Mr. Fatherree had given me. Also, I added that I had found conditions for the training of veterans shameful on my visit there. Mr. Greene was interested, so I arranged a conference with Mr. Fatherree, Dr. Easom, Mr. Greene, and me. Both Dr. Easom and Mr. Fatherree gave us the inside of the situation as they had found at Alcorn. Mr. Greene came back and wrote a flaming front page editorial on Alcorn. A storm of protest broke out all over the state about the conditions at Alcorn, both of the white dailies and the local radio newscasters commented. The college board of trustees held a special meeting with the State Department of Education. Confidentially, Dr. Easom told me that the President of the College would perhaps be asked to resign by the first of the year. ~~This~~ The State Department of Education is asking for a thorough inspection of the institution. Some good will come out of this situation, I am sure.

When I tried to get started on this Mississippi Survey, I found that a number of the situations had changed and most of the information I had gathered were out-dated, so I had a whole job to do from the very beginning.

As usual I started in by getting an appointment with the VA manager. I knew what would be the regional managers attitude when ever any mention of race was brought up - I knew his attitude because I could see his deeds. Not even one Negro was employed in any other job than the menial jobs.

I called his office a day before the conference and asked for a conference in the interest of the work I was doing with Negro veterans. I told him what information I was interested in getting. He asked if our organization was approved by the VA because he said "You know we don't just throw information around to the winds." I told him we had the respect of VA officials in Washington and everywhere else I had received the fullest cooperation of all VA officials and I couldn't understand why the rules of the VA was so much more here than here than elsewhere, restricted. He invited me to his office the next morning.

I can always depend on my AVC boys to help in any worthwhile project. I invited Mr. Lewis Miles, Chairman of the AVC chapter to accompany me to the VA Conference. We arrived right on the exact minute for the appointment and were ushered into the manager's office. Mr. C. Camp, the manager, was too rude to get us introduced, so I forced an introduction of Mr. Myles and me on him - two other officials in the conference were never introduced. I was asked to tell my personal history and the history and work of the SRC. Mr. Camp was one these types of officials who tries to be too busy to be bothered with you. He had a ready-made excuse for anything we could mention.

The night before the conference I spent some hours writing out my questions for our talk. Whenever a question touched a racial angle he just didn't know or in the instance of employment of Negro clerical and professional personnel, "we have it under consideration". The situation at the VA in Mississippi toward the fair employment of Negro personnel is plain rotten to the core. The only way Negroes will ever get anything that approaches a fair share of employment in the VA in Mississippi is for Washington authorities to absolutely demand a fair share of employment opportunities for Negroes. There is nobody in Mississippi who has enough influence and goodwill to put pressure toward VA's employment of qualified Negores in their fair proportions.

Mr. Camp based his stand on why Negroes are not employed on this: "Only one Negro has made an application for these types of jobs since I have been here." I asked if the VA in Mississippi was interested in qualified Negroes applying for these jobs. I explained that I knew how Negroes got jobs in the federal service. Still he "beat around the bush" by stating that these jobs are open to everybody and everybody can make an application for a job available out there. I thanked him for the information he had given and we took our leave.

In order not to allow the VA an excuse for refusing to employ Negroes, I went in to see the postmaster and requested fifty copies of form 57. Mr. Myles and his AVC veterans are getting a group of qualified Negroes to fill these forms. These forms are being filled in duplicates. When we have a representative number completed I am going to mail the originals to Mr. Camp by registered mail and send the copies to Mr. Albright, requesting Mr. Albright to see that these applications receive due consideration. We'll see how this works.

I have interviewed the principal officials of all the veterans organizations, the heads of the State employment offices, job training director and other officials concerned with the problems of veterans. I am having quite a bit of difficulty getting things together, but I'll do the job.

Best wishes to you and the staff.

Your friend

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HARRY L. WRIGHT

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December 31, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Ave. N. E.
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

I have your letter of December 27th with an expense account enclosed. I am embarrassed at not doing the job right in the beginning.

Enclosed is the properly filled expense account covering the period December 19 - 26, 1946.

Sincerely,

Harry L. Wright

HARRY L. WRIGHT

- -

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Your friend

/s/ Harry L. Wright
HARRY L. WRIGHT

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Field Dept

Southern Regional Council, Inc.

ROOM 432, 63 AUBURN AVENUE, N. E. ATLANTA 3, GEORGIA

A Council to attain, through research and action, the ideals and practices of equal opportunity for all peoples in the South

April 29, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Avenue, N.E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

While continuing my visits to the out-of-the-way small towns in Arkansas I am keeping one eye on this relocation project. On my way to Stuggart I stopped off at Pine Bluff and brought President Davis up-to-date on what was happening on this project in Little Rock and suggested to him how he could help most in the matter. Mr. Davis is a go-getter and will take advantage of any little inside advice that I can whisper in his ears. The State Department of Education has asked Mr. Davis to appoint a committee to study the possibilities of using one of these relocation projects. To shorten red tape and to add prestige; President Davis and Dean Johnson will form the college's committee.

From the Veterans Institute we attended at Dillard, I am "borrowing" an idea for such an affair for Arkansas. I have interested several organizations in helping to sponsor this institute. I met with President Davis and a committee on the institute when I visited Pine Bluff. We prepared preliminary plans. I'll keep you informed on the progress of these plans.

Stuttgart, a two-story-building-sized-town, with two paved streets. Its a farming town that has broken away from the bonds of cotton rule and is trying to combine industry with agriculture. There are about six rice and oat mills in the town and a group of supplying small businesses. This kind of town would naturally support a strong machinist union. The ratio of the population is four white persons to one Negro. The white people do the skilled work, get the decent salaries, live in good homes, and send their children to a modern school. The Negroes get the usual "crumbs that fall from the table." There are approximately seventy white veterans on job training and one Negro veteran happened to have a good White boss who got him on the program some way.

Mr. J. Diaz is the Contact Officer located here. Mr. Diaz is one of the politician-looking and long-winded talking kind of fellows. He tried to impress me that everything was running smooth but he wouldn't know particularly how Negroes were getting on job training because: "that's handled by the school folk." I saw that he was afraid to talk to me - so, I crossed my legs and gave my little "Mississippi Boy"

speech; from then on we got together on an honest basis. He admitted very few Negro veterans were contacting his office and he would like to help them if he could find a way of getting to them. He had never been across the railroad tracks to meet any of the Negro Leaders - didn't even know the one Negro Doctor who lived in the community for thirty-two years. Right away, I saw how I could do some good.

Out at the Negro High School (just a wooden barn with a few partitions) I rounded up the principal and found that he didn't know anything about the veterans program. I had found that a white teacher in the white high school had been designated to handle the coordination of the veterans program for all veterans, so, I asked this Negro principal to take me over to the white high school and introduce me to the white teacher. A Mr. H. S. Mitchell was the white teacher in charge of this program; he was making plans to leave this position for private business therefore he could afford to give all the information I wanted. Mr. C. M. Terry, the Negro principal, had never met this coordinator of the veterans program. I suggested that Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Terry and the Contact Officer, Mr. Diaz get together and plan a meeting with all the Negro veterans that would be contacted through the Negro churches and other community organizations. I invited Mr. Terry to visit with me the Contact Officer, Mr. Diaz. They got together on the meeting. The fire was lighted. Mr. Terry has promised to inform me of the results.

In a town where most of the well paid jobs require some skilled training, it seems to be a planned policy not to teach Negro students trades in the high schools, (This is not the first town I have seen this) I am going to ask the State Department of Education, why. There were six Negro veterans registered in the high school.

El Dorado - an oil town (of former days) down near the Louisiana Border. The ratio of the population is five white persons to one Negro. Wherever there is no cotton, there are few Negroes; always the cotton follows the river, the Negro follows the cotton and poverty overtakes them all in the middle of the road. The few Negroes that live here are the "left-overs" from the oil-boom days. They have decent homes, good churches and poor schools (I wondered why).

I sought out the Contact Office and to the tune of "boy what can I do for you" I met Mr. Ben T. Rolfe, a hill-billy type of old timer of some war prior to World War II, who was the Contact Officer. I knew without asking that he was not only uninformed about what Negro veterans were doing but also uninterested; but he was in the position and I felt we would have to make the best of a bad situation. I felt that the same plan I used in Stuttgart would work here.

I located the Negro high school (another wooden barn with a few partitions) and met the principal, Mr. N. F. Jackson, one of the professors of the "old school", who felt secure in his job - a "satisfied-salary-drawer". This explained the poor school. Although there is employed here a trade and industry teacher, there is no equipment or work shop. There are hundreds of opportunities for skilled workers in the many oil refineries and supply businesses there. I asked the principal to carry me out to the white high school to meet the usual white teacher who coordinates the veterans program for all veterans (supposedly). Mr. Henry T. Hawg, a white teacher, who is paid from tuition funds of white and Negro veterans was my man. Here's an evil I am finding - in this instance, there are about eight Negro veterans enrolled in school here - the tuition from the Government is received by the Negro principal who has to turn these funds over to the superintendent of schools who informs the Negro principal that his school gets nothing; the tuition is used to defray the expense of the administration

of the coordinator of the veterans program; in other words the Negro school through the veterans program (use of federal funds) helps to subsidize education for white schools. This is confidential information from the Negro principal.

I got the "powers that be" Mr. Hawg, the Contact Officer, Mr. Rolfe, the principal Mr. Jackson and the trade and industry teacher together and told them in plain words that somebody was sitting down on his job. There were sixty-nine white veterans on job training and one Negro veteran. They got their heads together and worked out a plan of getting all the veterans together.

In most of the instances I find where Negro veterans are being passed over, is usually an instance where Negro Leaders and white officials "just hadn't had a chance to meet." It's a strange affair when I have to introduce an old Negro citizen to an old white citizen in the mutual interest of their community. That's the job though.

Best wishes to you and the staff.

Your friend,

Harry L. Wright

HARRY L. WRIGHT

A Survey of Veterans Services For Negroes in Oklahoma

By Harry L. Wright

Field Representative, Veterans Services Division
Southern Regional Council, Inc.

OKLAHOMA is different from most other Southern states in affording Negroes opportunities for political participation; yet the pattern of veterans services for Negroes in Oklahoma falls to the same low standards as in Mississippi, where Negroes vote only at the risk of their lives.

Oklahoma has received 226,000 Veterans back home from the war; 15,000 of these Ex-GI's are Negroes. The problem these veterans face in bridging the gap between life in the armed services and life "back home" is a most important problem of Oklahoma's post-war period.

The over-all administration of state veterans affairs in Oklahoma is delegated to the three-man board of the Soldier's Relief Commission. The special task of supervising education and training under the GI Bill is assigned to the Governor's Veterans Advisory Committee. Although these two veterans' policy-making bodies have to struggle with the many special problems that 15,000 Negro veterans present in such a segregated society as Oklahoma fosters, not one Negro has been appointed to either of these two agencies.

It was the assignment of this writer to appraise the administration of Oklahoma's veterans services, and in particular to Negro veterans. That involved, at the outset, honest questions and frank answers from State and Federal officials at the State capital and in the main cities.

To view the other side of the picture, a number of trips were made to cities and towns in the section of the state where most of the Negro population is centered. Here the method was conferences with officials; visits to schools and churches and to the homes of veterans; casual chats at the shoe-shine-barber-shop hang-outs with veterans; and talks with community leaders of both races. Out of this double inquiry into how the services are set up at the capital and how they actually work across the backwood towns these conclusions stand out.

Education

One Ex-GI summed up his quest for a better education this way. "I want to learn something more so that I can get a better job in order to live a better and more secure life. In the Army I learned how much it pays to know how to do something well."

Ten percent of all the veterans who have returned to Oklahoma are receiving some of the educational benefits under the GI Bill. Oklahoma offers three plans of training for veterans: (1) Institutional training, which is instruction in colleges and schools; 21,000 veterans are training under this plan. (2) On-the-job training, which furnishes practical instruction in business establishments or on the farms; this plan has attracted 6,000 veterans. (3) The cooperative job training plan, practical instruction given on the job, with the paper work given in the schools and colleges; under this plan 7,000 veterans are training.

Neither State nor Federal officials admitted having information on the number of Negroes included in these figures, even though such

information would aid their agencies' work with the special problems that Negro veterans necessarily present.

A recent announcement by the State Board of Regents for Higher Education on the enrollment of veterans in Oklahoma colleges shows one instance of how Negro veterans are denied equal opportunities for education and consequently an equal opportunity for earning a better living. The 18 State-supported colleges have enrolled 16,000 veterans; twenty-two independent and municipal senior and junior colleges have enrolled an additional 5,000 veterans, totalling 40 colleges and 21,000 veterans. Oklahoma permits Negro veterans to enroll in only one of these 40 colleges, and only 309 of the 21,000 veterans enrolled are Negroes. Fifteen times more white veterans than Negro veterans have returned to Oklahoma, yet 60 times more white veterans than Negro veterans have been given an opportunity for education in Oklahoma's colleges.

Here are two typical examples of conditions found in areas where Negro veterans return:

Town "A" is located near the Oklahoma-Texas border. It is the shopping center of a large agriculture area. Most of the businesses are supply or service enterprises; 3,000 of the 20,000 inhabitants are Negroes. There are a number of Negro ministers, a fair number of teachers and one plumber. Negro-owned businesses are of the usual kind found in small Southern towns — a few cafes, a shoe repair shop, a barber shop, and the ever-present poolroom. In this town 200 white veterans are working under the job-training plan, and only five Negro veterans are on the program. On the farm-training program in the county there are 20 white veterans and not one Negro veteran.

Town "B" is an urban area. Its economy is built around the oil industry. There are approximately 180,000 people living here, 20,000 of them Negroes. Responsible officials estimate that 27,000 white and 3,000 Negro veterans have returned to this town. Negroes freely take part in the political life of the community. The police department employs 20 Negroes whose duties range from "beat walking" to detective work. The city bus transportation company employs a number of Negroes as bus drivers, and there is an unusually large number of competent Negro business and professional men.

Notwithstanding this progress, unusual for the South, this town with a white-Negro veteran ratio of 10 to 1 has over 50 times more white veterans on the job-training program than Negro veterans—1,200 white and only 25 Negro veterans.

Employment

Recently, in a survey of employment opportunities for Negroes in Oklahoma City, Mr. J. Harvey Kerns of the National Urban League wrote: "Practically 85 percent of the Negro labor force consists of workers engaged in occupations which are least secure and lowest paid — 90 percent of employed Negro men and women are in domestic employment, personal service jobs and in unskilled labor jobs."

Negro veterans returning to Oklahoma are finding their opportunities limited to the same old patterns of employment—the unskilled labor jobs, domestic employment, and any other of the "least secure and lowest paid" jobs available.

During the month of July, 1946, the United States Employment Service in Oklahoma placed 8,749 persons on jobs; 20 percent of these jobs went to non-whites (mostly Negroes), veterans and non-veterans included. Of the 70 professional and managerial job placements, non-whites received only one; of the 736 clerical and sales placements non-whites received only three; from 637 skilled job place-

ments non-whites received only four; 715 semi-skilled job placements included only 32 placements from non-whites but in the "least secure and lowest paid" job placements non-whites who were only 20 percent of all persons placed, received 955 of the 2,043 service job placements and 709 of the 4,546 unskilled and other job placements.

Not only is this pattern of employment of negroes drawn by private employers but in most cases also by State and Federal agencies.

The State Veterans Service Office employs seven full time service officers and a large clerical staff to assist all veterans in getting their benefits; three of these service officers are located in each of the two regional offices of the Veterans Administration, and one service officer does field work over the State. Though this tax-supported State agency pledges services to all veterans without regard to race, not one Negro veteran has been employed in this agency to assist in solving some of the special problems of Oklahoma's 15,000 Negro veterans.

The U. S. Employment Service maintains a state office in Oklahoma City and branch offices scattered in every principal town in Oklahoma.

These offices are staffed by several hundred clerical and professional workers, all white except for five Negro clerical and professional workers employed in the two understaffed, poorly-equipped, segregated USES offices in Oklahoma City and Tulsa.

The U. S. Veterans Administration maintains two regional offices and 12 contact offices in Oklahoma. The Regional offices are located at Oklahoma City and Muskogee. Contact offices are open at Lawton, Enid, Clinton, Shawnee, Ponca City, Bartlesville, Vinita, McAlester, Hugo, Durant, Hogansville, and Okmulgee. Each of the regional offices employs 600 or more clerical and professional workers and each of the contact offices employs at least two such workers; yet only nine Negro clerical and professional workers are employed by the Veterans Administration in all of its Oklahoma offices.

General

Veterans organizations freely accept Negro members. There are separate American Legion and Veterans of Foreign War's posts for Negroes in most of the large towns. The American Veterans Committee has recently organized a chapter in Oklahoma City open to veterans of all races.

The American Legion is the largest of all veterans organizations in Oklahoma. It has 70,000 members scattered in 320 posts over the State. Legion officials estimate that 10,000 of their membership are Negroes. Informed Negroes thought the estimate high. By far the greater part of the Negro Legionnaires are World War I veterans. These Negro veterans are organized into 50 separate posts. Each of these posts has a Negro service officer who works part time assisting member and non-member veterans with their problems. Posts for Negroes receive equal and fair representation at the Legion's state convention.

Several new local veteran organizations are springing up in a number of the large towns; these groups are interested in studying the programs of all established veteran organizations to determine which one best represents their interest. None of these organizations is making a whole-hearted effort to organize Negro veterans.

The lack of a progressive and extensive organizing program among Negro veterans of World War II is impeding their re-adjustment to peace time living.

Oklahoma City is the only city in the State that has made a worthwhile effort toward straightening out the "bottleneck" in housing for Negro veterans. Several real estate firms have developed two excellent housing

projects in the city. Negro veterans in Oklahoma City with good credit ratings and a steady income are receiving GI loans to purchase these homes without difficulty. In other cities and towns of Oklahoma only a neglible number of Negro veterans get an opportunity to take advantage of the loan benefit. This writer has not met even one Negro veteran among the large number of veterans interviewed in all of the principal population centers of Oklahoma who has received a GI business or farm loan.

The two primary problems which hinder Oklahoma's veterans program from being an effective tool in assisting Negro veterans to get re-adjusted to peace-time living are: (1) the failure of responsible veteran officials, local, State and Federal to get an understanding of the problems of Negro veterans and (2) the failure of the Negro veterans and their leaders to become informed on veterans' rights and opportunities.

This writer has interviewed officials of all the agencies concerned with the administration of the veterans program in Oklahoma. Not one of these officials knew even the extent of their agencies' services to Negro veterans. With the exception of the nine Negroes employed in the Veterans Administration and the five Negroes working for the U. S. Employment Service, all of the agencies and information centers are staffed entirely by white employees. Rarely do these white employees have more than a superficial knowledge about conditions in Negro communities, yet they make all the policies and plan all the programs for all veterans in Oklahoma.

The Negro Veterans and their leaders get their information about the rights and opportunities of veterans mostly from "second-hand" sources. They are not appointed to the advisory and administrative positions of veterans servicing agencies in Oklahoma, consequently they are usually uninformed and frequently misinformed.

What Would Help

1. Appointment of a Negro to the Governor's Veterans Advisory Committee.
2. Appointment of a Negro veteran to an administrative position of the Veterans Administration to work on a state-wide level; and the employment of an adequate number of Negro veterans as vocational advisers, contact officers, and training officers, especially in the areas where large numbers of Negro veterans live.
3. Expansion of the educational facilities, especially in trade education.
4. Negro veterans should be employed on the staff of the State Veterans Service Office and assigned to the areas where Negroes are numerically important.
5. The two Negro offices of the USES located in Oklahoma City and Tulsa should be integrated into the principal offices of the USES in these cities.
6. Interested Negro and white leaders and community organizations should make a study of veterans programs in their communities, with a view to stepping up acceptance and use of benefits and fair administration of the programs.
7. A conscientious public relations program should be launched by civic organizations, especially Negro civic organizations, through newspapers and radio, to explain in "ABC fashion" the opportunities all veterans have under the GI program.

SOUTHERN REGIONAL COUNCIL, INC.
63 Auburn Ave. Atlanta 3, Ga.
December, 1946

January 8, 1947

Mr. Harry L. Wright
Urban League,
914 Gaines St.,
Little Rock, Ark.

Dear Harry:

I wrote a couple of people in the Veterans Administration at the time I sent your Oklahoma Survey up there, trying to be sure that one would reach General Bradley.

Greatly to my surprise the attached letter from the General. It was entirely in his own handwriting.

So you see what you write does get to the Bossman.

Sincerely,

GSM/lg

George S. Mitchell

January 23, 1947

Mr. Harry L. Wright
1244 Pittsburgh St.,
Jackson, Mississippi

Dear Harry:

I got your note mailed January 22nd saying we were holding unpaid two expense accounts.

I find record of our having mailed you on January 8th check for $20.85 covering the period December 19th - 26th and on January 9th check for $24.70 covering period January 1st - 8th.

Did these not reach you. We mailed them to your Jackson, Mississippi address, so far as we know.

We have received the expense account for the sum of $175.40. I assume that the two travel advances out against it will nearly eat it up. We will pay the balance in a couple of days I hope.

I assume that you did cash my $60.00 check.

Bohannon is putting in two or three days getting the directory material in shape to mail to you.

Sincerely,

GSM/lg

George S. Mitchell

P.S. Mrs. Gillooley just recollected that by a previous direction she had been mailing your things to the first listed address which by error was Little Rock. I just called Corinne Pennington in Little Rock and ask her to please forward all your first class mail to your Jackson address by Air Mail and she said she would. I mailed her some compensating Air-Mail stamps. Regrets, apologies, etc.

GSM.

January 28, 1947

Mr. Harry L. Wright
1244 Pittsburgh St.,
Jackson, Mississippi

Dear Harry:

Many thanks for the check.

I hope you are by now in funds.

I am writing Paul Williams to tell him about your plans and needs. Also, I am calling up Bob Amis to tell him. It seems to me you will get to go to Washington sometime soon, in an effort to clinch a job.

I have turned the Mississippi manuscript over to Ray Warwick and I hope to get his editorial views in a day or two.

As soon as Bohannon shows, I will send the directory material to you.

Sincerely,

GSM/lg

George S. Mitchell

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A Council to attain, through research and action, the ideals and practices of equal opportunity for all peoples in the South

23 January, 1947

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Ave. N. E.
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

You suggested that I write you after I arrived home of my definite plans for future employment and education.

I would like to work another year full time before entering law school in order to get married and reasonably settled.

My first preference for employment would be in Government service in Washington, D. C. and my second preference would be employmentin New York City. In the first instance Washington would probably afford both my future wife and me a better employment opportunity though less opportunities for educational advancement. The second instance would probably be the opposite.

It is my understanding that I will have rounded off our veterans projects by the latter part of February, therefore I am rounding -off plans to get started on another job by the first of March, 1947. I would appreciate it a great deal if you will do your best to locate me a job in either Washington, D.C. or New York City.

Your friend

Harry L. Wright

HARRY L. WRIGHT

- -

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A Council to attain through research and action the ideals and practices of equal opportunity for all peoples in the South

January 29, 1947

To: The Members of the Southern Regional Council

Your membership dues for 1947 are now payable. We are counting on your continued support during this year.

Won't you please send us your check to cover your 1947 dues of $2.00, and any additional contribution you feel you can send.

Please use the card and self-addressed envelope which are enclosed for your convenience.

Cordially yours,

Inez B. Tillison

(Mrs.) Inez B. Tillison
Secretary-Treasurer

Encl.

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The Security Life Insurance Company

125½ NORTH FARISH STREET
JACKSON, MISS.

February 5, 1947

Dear Co-Worker:

We are calling a meeting of the Mississippi State Negro Business League for February 12,1947 at 3 P.M. Edward Lee Hotel.

We are fortunate to have as our guest Mr. Lynwood Brown, Executive Secretary, National Negro Business League, who will be our guest speaker.

The evening activities will be the attendance at the Percy Green Testimonial Dinner.

We are asking every member of the League to be present.

With every good wish.

Very truly yours,

W. H. Williams

W. H. Williams,
President, Mississippi
State Negro Business League.

WHW:g.

DELTA Council

SERVING THE ENTIRE MISSISSIPPI DELTA

STONEVILLE, MISSISSIPPI

February 7, 1947

TO THOSE INTERESTED IN DELTA COUNCIL:

The eighteen Delta Council committee chairmen have been named as a Resolution Committee for the consideration of such matters as those people interested in Delta Council feel should come before the membership at its Annual Meeting in May. Prior to calling a meeting of this Committee we are asking all of our members to suggest such resolutions and/or programs of work that they feel the organization should undertake.

Please let us have your suggestions at an early date so the Committee will have time for study and drafting of such measures for approval of the Board of Directors prior to May.

Very truly yours,

Irby Turner

Irby Turner
President

URBAN LEAGUE OF GREATER LITTLE ROCK

FOR SOCIAL SERVICE AMONG NEGROES

914 GAINES STREET LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS PHONE 6592

W. H. BASS, JR.
Executive Secretary

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MRS. LATENE TEMPLE
MRS. H. H. TUCKER
FRED J. VENNER
FATHER G. G. WALKER
MRS. JANIE WAFFORD

February 10, 1947

Dear Member:

The Urban League of Greater Little Rock will hold its Tenth Annual Meeting Sunday, February 16th at 5:00 p.m. at Wesley Chapel Methodist Church, 11th and State Streets, Little Rock, Arkansas. Dr. Roland Smith, pastor of First Baptist Church, will be the principal speaker.

Your presence is urged as the achievements of the League for the year will be enumerated and the program for the incoming year outlined.

Your membership for 1947 is urgently solicited, and you will find below an application for membership that you may clip and mail your membership directly to our office at 914 Gaines Street.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP
THE URBAN LEAGUE
OF GREATER LITTLE ROCK

An Inter-Racial Organization for Social Service Among Negroes Supported by the Community Chest and Paid Memberships.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP $1.00
CONTRIBUTING MEMBERSHIP $3.00 to $5.00
SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP $5.00 and UP

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ TELEPHONE _____

DATE _____ AMOUNT $ _____

Sincerely yours,

W. H. Bass, Jr.

W. H. Bass, Jr.

WHB p

February 18, 1947

Mr. Harry L. Wright
1244 Pittsburgh Street
Jackson, Mississippi

Dear Harry:

Purely as a means to save trouble to you, I am asking Mrs. Tillison to deduct a sum from your next expense account and hand it directly to me; that being the $65.00 which Mrs. Gillooley advanced to you February 14th from my GSM personally owned private money. So that will take care of the $65.00.

I am adding the $1.91 cost of the telegram money order to my expense account which clears that up.

Write me the dope sometime.

Sincerely,

GSM/lg

George S. Mitchell

February 18, 1947

Mr. Harry L. Wright
1244 Pittsburgh Street
Jackson, Mississippi

Dear Harry:

Purely as a means to save trouble to you, I am asking Mrs. Tillison to deduct a sum from your next expense account and hand it directly to me; that being the $65.00 which Mrs. Gillooley advanced to you February 14th from my GSM personally owned private money. So that will take care of the $65.00.

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Write me the dope sometime.

Sincerely,

GSM/lg

George S. Mitchell

Harry L. Wright
180 West 135th Street
Harlem Branch YMCA
Room 1122
New York, N.Y.

Dr. George S. Mitchell:

Well, the country-boy has hit the big city. So far I have overcome the first obstacle — I have a very nice place to stay. The "Y" Secretary in Atlanta made the arrangements here for me.

I have two conferences on jobs this afternoon; I'll let you know how I come out on these. Please forward any personal mail to the above address. My best wishes to all of the SRC family.

My best personal wishes to you and your family.

Your friend
Harry L. Wright

1:25

A Survey Of Veterans Services
For Negroes
In Oklahoma

Oklahoma is a Southern State distinctively different from most other Southern States particularly in affording Negroes opportunities for political participation; yet, the patterns of Veterans services for Negroes in Oklahoma falls to the same low standards as Veteran services for Negroes in Mississippi, where Negroes vote only at the risk of their lives.

Oklahoma has received 226,000 Veterans back home from the war; 15,000 of these "Ex GI's" are Negroes. The problems that these veterans face in bridging the gap between life in the armed services and life "back home" is the most important problem of Oklahoma's post war period.

The over-all task of the administration of Veterans affairs in Oklahoma is delegated to the three-man board of the Soldiers Relief Commission. The special task of supervising education and training under the GI Bill is assigned to the Governor's Veterans Advisory Committee. Although these two veterans' policy-making bodies have to struggle with the many special problems that 15,000 Negro Veterans present in such a segregated society as Oklahoma fosters, not one Negro has been appointed to either of these two agencies.

It was the assignment of this writer to appraise the administration of Oklahoma's veterans services to Veterans and in particular to Negro Veterans. That involved at the outset, honest questions and frank answers from state and federal officials at the state capital and in the main cities.

To view the other side of the picture, a number of trips were made to cities and towns in the section of the state where most of the Negro population is centered. Here the method was conferences with officials; visits to schools and churches and to the homes of Veterans; casual chats at the

"shoe-shine-barber-shop" "hang-outs" with veterans; and [redacted] talks with community leaders of both races. Out of this double inquiry into how the services are set-up at the capital and how they actually work across the backwood towns; these conclusions standout.

Education

One "Ex GI" summed up his quest for a better education this way: "I want to learn something more so that I can get a better job inorder to live a better and more secure life. In the Army I learned how much it pays to know how to do something well."

Ten percent of all the veterans who have returned to Oklahoma are receiving some of the educational benefits under the GI Bill. Oklahoma offers three plans of training for veterans under the GI Bill: (1) institutional training - which consists of instruction in colleges and schools. There are 21,000 veterans training under this plan. (2) On-th-job training - which furnishes practical instruction in business establishments or on the farms. This plan has attracted 6,000 veterans. (3) The cooperative job training plan - the practical instruction being given on the job with the paper work being given in the schools and colleges. Under this plan 7,000 veterans are training.

Neither state nor federal officials admitted having information on the number of Negroes included in these figures. Even though such information would add to the efficient administration of their agencies' [redacted] work with the special problems that Negro Veterans necessarily bring.

A recent announcement by the State Board of Regents for Higher Education on the enrollment of Veterans in Oklahoma Colleges show one instance of how Negro Veterans are denied equal opportunities for education and consequently an equal opportunity for earning a better living. The eighteen state-supported

colleges have enrolled 16,000 Veterans; twenty-two independent and municipal senior and junior colleges have enrolled an additional 5,000 Veterans; totalling forty colleges and 21,000 Veterans. Oklahoma permits Negro Veterans to enroll in only one of these forty colleges, and only 309 of the 21,000 Veterans enrolled are Negroes. ~~Slightly less than~~ Fifteen times more white Veterans than Negro Veterans have returned to Oklahoma yet, 60 times more white veterans than Negro veterans have been given an opportunity for education in Oklahoma's Colleges.

Here are two typical examples of conditions found in areas where Negro Veterans return:

Town (A) is located near the Oklahoma-Texas border. It is the "shopping center" of a large agriculture area. Most of the businesses are supply ~~and/or~~ and/or service enterprises: 3,000 of the 20,000 inhabitants are Negroes. There are a number of Negro ministers, a fair number of teachers and one plumber. Negro-owned business's are of the usual kind and type found in small Southern towns - a few cafes, a shoe repair shop, a barber shop, and the ever-present poolroom. In this town 200 white Veterans are receiving training under the job training plan, and only 5 Negro Veterans are on the program. On the farm training program there are 20 white Veterans and not even one Negro Veteran.

Town (B) is an urban area. Its economy is built around the oil industry. There are approximately 180,000 people living here; 20,000 of this number are Negroes. Responsible officials estimate that 27,000 white and 3,000 Negro Veterans have returned to this town. Negroes take an active part in the political life of the community, freely. The police department employes twenty Negroes whose duties range from "beat walking" to detective work. The City bus transportation company employs a number of Negroes as bus drivers,

and there is an unusual large number of competent business and professional men.

In view of all of this progress unusual for a Southern town; this town with a white-Negro Veterans ratio of 10 to 1 has more then 50 times more white Veterans on the job training program than Negro Veterans - there are 1200 white Veterans on job training and only 25 Negro Veterans.

Employment

Recently, in a survey of employment opportunities for Negroes in Oklahoma City, Mr. J. Harvey Kerns of the National Urban League wrote: "Practically 85 percent of the Negro labor force consists of workers engaged in occupations which are least secure and lowest paid--90 percent of employed Negro men and women are in domestic employment, personal service jobs and in unskilled labor jobs."

Negro Veterans returning to Oklahoma are finding their opportunities limited to the same old patterns of employment - the unskilled labor jobs, domestic employment, and any other of the "least secure and lowest paid" jobs available.

During the month of July, 1946, the United States Employment Services placed 8749 persons on jobs; 20% of these jobs went to non-whites (mostly Negroes) Veterans and non-veterans included. Of the 70 professional and managerial job placements, non-whites received only 1; of the 736 clerical and Sales placements non-whites received only 3; from 677 skilled job placements non-whites received only 4; 715 semi-skilled job placements included only 32 placements for non-whites, but in the"least secure and lowest paid" job placements non-whites who constituted only 20% of all the persons placed, received 955 of the 2043 service job placements and 709 of the 4546 unskilled and other job placements.

Not only is this pattern of employment of Negroes drawn by private employers but in most cases also by state and federal agencies.

The State Veterans Service Office employes 7 full time service officers and a full time clerical staff to assist all veterans in getting their benefits; 3 of these service officers are located in both of the regional offices of the Veterans Administration in Oklahoma City and Muskogee, and 1 service officer does field work over the state. Though, this state tax-supported agency pledges services to all veterans without regard to race; not one Negro Veterans has been employed in this agency to assist in solving some of the special problems of Oklahoma's 15,000 Negro Veterans.

The U. S. Employment Services maintains a state office in Oklahoma City and branch offices scattered in every large or principal town in Oklahoma. Those offices are staffed by several hundred clerical and professional workers, all white, except the five Negro Clerical and professional workers employed in the two understaffed, poorly-equipped, segregated, USES offices located in Oklahoma City and Tulsa.

The U. S. Veterans Administration maintains 2 regional offices and 12 contact offices in Oklahoma. The Regional offices are located at Oklahoma City and Muskogee. Contact offices are open at Lawton, Enid, Clinton, Shawnee, Ponca City, Bartlesville, Vinita, McAlester, Hugo, Durant, Hoganville, and Okmulgee. Each of the regional offices employ 600 or more clerical and professional workers and each of the contact offices employ at least 2 such workers, yet, only 9 Negro clerical and professional workers are employed by the Veterans Administration in all of its Oklahoma offices.

General

Veterans' organizations accept Negro members, freely. There are separate American Legion and Veterans of Foreign War posts for Negroes in most of the

large towns. The American Veterans Committee, Inc. has recently organized a Chapter in Oklahoma City; membership is opened to Veterans of all races.

The American Legion is the largest of all veterans organizations in Oklahoma. It has 70,000 members scattered in 320 post over the state. Legion officials estimate that 10,000 of their membership are Negroes; by far, the greater part of these are World War I veterans. These Negro Veterans are organized into 50 separate posts. Each of these posts has a Negro Service officer who works part time assisting members and non-member Veterans with their problems. Post for Negroes receive equal and fair representation at the American Legion State Conventions.

Several new local veteran organizations are springing up in a number of the large towns; these groups are interested in studying the programs of all established Veteran organizations inorder to determine which one represents best their interest. None of these organizations are making a whole-hearted effort to organize Negro Veterans.

The lack of a progressive and extensive organizing program among Negro Veterans of World War II is impeding their rapid and efficient re-adjustment to peace-time living.

Oklahoma City is the only City in Oklahoma that has made a worthwhile effort toward straightening out the "bottleneck" in housing for Negro Veterans; several real estate firms have developed two excellent housing projects in the city. Negro Veterans in Oklahoma City with good credit ratings and a steady income are receiving GI loans to purchase these homes without difficulty. In other cities and towns of Oklahoma only a neglible number of Negro Veterans get an opportunity to take advantage of the loan benefit. This writer has not met even one Negro Veteran among the large number of veterans interviewed in all of the principal population centers of Oklahoma who has received a GI business or farm loan.

The two primary problems involved in hindering Oklahoma's Veterans program from being an effective tool in ~~to~~ assisting Negro Veterans to get re-adjusted to peace-time living are: (1) the failure of responsible Veteran officials, local, state and federal to get an understanding of the problems of Negro Veterans and (2) the failure of the Negro Veterans and their leaders ~~in getting~~ to get informed on Veterans' rights and opportunities.

This writer has interviewed officials of all the agencies concerned with the administration of the veterans program in Oklahoma. Not one of these officials knew even the extent of their agencies' ~~services~~ services to Negro Veterans. With the exception of the 9 Negroes employed in the Veterans Administration and the 5 Negroes working for the U.S. Employment Service, all of the Veterans agencies and information centers are staffed entirely by white employees. Rarely, do these white employees know anything about conditions in Negro communities, yet they make all the policies and plan all the programs for all veterans in Oklahoma.

The Negro Veterans and their leaders get their information about the rights and opportunities of Veterans mostly from a "second-hand" source; they are not appointed to the advisory and administrative positions of veterans servicing agencies in Oklahoma, consequently they are usually uninformed and frequently mis-informed.

WHAT WOULD HELP

1. Appointment of a Negro to the Governor's Veterans Advisory Committee.
2. Appointment of a Negro veteran to an administrative position of the Veteran Administration to work on a state-wide level; and the employment of an adequate number of Negro veterans as vocational advisers, contact officers, and training officers, especially in the areas where large number of Negro veterans live.

3. Expansion of the educational facilities, especially in trade education.

4. Negro veterans should be employed on the staff of the State Veterans Service Office and assigned to the areas where Negroes are numerically important.

5. The two poorly-equipped, under-staffed, segregated offices of the USES located in Oklahoma City and Tulsa should be integrated into the principal office of the USES offices located in these cities.

6. Interested Negro and white leaders and community organizations should make a study of veterans program in their communities, with a view toward encouraging improvement in the acceptance and use of benefits and the fair administration of the program by responsible officials.

7. A consciencious public relation program should be launched by civic organizations, especially Negro Civic organizations, through the newspapers and the radio, inorder to explain in "ABC fashion" the opportunities all veterans have under the GI program.

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services, Inc.
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Ave. N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia

Southern Regional Council, Inc., 63 Auburn Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

I enclose dues for 1947 .....$_____
(Individual, $2.00; Husband and wife, $3.00)
I enclose an additional contribution of .....$_____
(Members paying $5.00 or more are enrolled as sustaining members.)
TOTAL ENCLOSED (check___cash___).....$_____

Mr. Harry L. Wright
1244 Pittsburg Street
Jackson, 4, Mississippi

Address as shown above is correct___.

Memo to Commissioner Jones and President Davis:

Mr. Harry L. Wright, at the suggestion of the State Department American Legion, came out for scheduled conference with Mr. Jones and was directed to my desk for conference and recommended action.

After conference with Mr. Farrar of the Department we wish to make the following observations and suggestions:

1. The more than 400 veterans now at A. M. & N. tax the facilities of the college to the limit, though an additional 100 have been turned away and the increasing requests indicate hundreds are yet to come.

2. Since additional facilities cannot be provided to meet the emergency before a year or two, we suggest that the Commissioner of Education and the President of the College designate a study committee to investigate the problem of securing additional training facilities to meet this great need.

3. In view of the possibilities in Jacksonville, Jerome, Rohwer and other centers, we suggest this study be made at the earliest possible date and that findings be reported back to the Department of Education and the A. M. & N. College for study and further action, looking toward acquisition of any of these facilities from proper Federal agencies.

Ed McCuistion

Ed McCuistion, Director
Division of Negro Education

EMcC:mh

THE STATUS OF NEGRO VETERANS IN ARKANSAS - A FACTUAL PRESENTATION

Reverend Henderson, and friends. Your very kind invitation for me to talk with this group is appreciated. I am always glad to talk. My father taught me that a good Wright always has something to say - he tells of my grandmother a good Christian lady who went to church every time the church doors opened, and at every service she always said her "determination" somehow she always found something different to say at each service, one Sunday there were four occasions for her to attend church, at these earlier services, she spoke as usual - when the last services started her spirit still was undimmed she arose and said: "Well, I don't have much to say this time - but I will say "My name is Sue Wright and I mean to do right". Well, my name is Harry Wright and I do have a little more to say.

For the last two months, I have been travelling in Arkansas - taking a look principall at educational and employment opportunities for Negro veterans. This project has the high sounding title of "An Administrative Survey of Services to Negro Veterans." Congress has done a good job of writing the so-called G.I. Bill of Rights, however, the proof of the pudding is in the eating - The worth of this law is how well it helps all veterans in getting fitted back into civilian life. This is a job of administration.

HOW WELL IS THE JOB OF ADMINISTRATION BEING DONE IN ARKANSAS AMONG NEGRO VETERANS? In Little Rock, I have gone in to see the officials of all the agencies who handle the administration of veterans affairs on a state-wide basis without exception, I have found these gentlemen to be men of integrity who had a sincere interest in seeing that <u>all</u> veterans got the best services from their agencies.

These officials described in details the work of their agencies out in the state and outlined the opportunities offered both Negro and white veterans. A beautiful picture of "separate but equal" facilities and programs for Negro veterans.

With an understanding among these officials that I would visit a number of small towns in Arkansas and observe conditions as they actually were; compare the actual program

with the programs officials had "on paper," and to suggest to them ways of increasing the effectiveness of their work with Negro veterans, I took my leave.

TOWNS VISITED

To date, I have visited these thirteen towns: Forrest City, Marianna, Helena, Stuttgart, Pine Bluff, El Dorado, McGehee, Texarkana, Hope, Arkadelphia, Hot Springs, Fort Smith, and Dermott. Most of the Negroes in Arkansas live in or near these areas.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

In these towns, I have talked with officials of both state and federal agencies - civic organizations both white and Negro; the community leaders of both races, officials of local veterans organizations, and to just plain "ex G.I. Joes." standing around on the blocks. In addition to hearing what these people had to say, I have gone into their churches, their factories, their homes, and in their pool rooms and gambling dens; I saw what was happening.

EDUCATION

In talking with white leaders and officials in these communities I have often been asked: "Wright, what does the Negro veteran want?" I have answered without hesitation, we want exactly what you want, we want it in the same proportions; we want it under the same standards, we want it not as Negroes but as Americans. We understand its wise to compromise on methods - we expect to do that.

We want equal opportunities for education. In all of Arkansas there is but one school where Negro veterans can get anything that approaches a good well-rounded trade education I am discounting a few of these "fulfil the law" schools that are rapidly springing up over the state in an effort to catch some of this government money floating around. This only worthwhile school, Arkansas State A M & N College for Negroes, has been forced to refuse admission to one hundred veterans per month for the last two months, because of the lack of adequate equipment and housing,

Most of the training programs for veterans are handled through the local school boards. Usually, one of the white teachers is designated coordinator of veterans; it is his job to

work out training programs and to do the administrative work for both white and Negro veterans. In most of the towns visited principals of Negro high schools had never even met this coordinator. For instance, in Stuttgart, I accompanied the principal of the Negro high school over to the white high school and where we met for the first time, the coordinator of veterans. In this town there were eighty white veterans on the training program and one Negro veteran. Negroes comprise about one third of the population.

Of the thirteen towns visited only three of these towns had organized farm training for Negro veterans. In Texarkana, Arkansas, the Negro veterans Farm Training program is assigned to the white agricultural high schook, a Negro teacher is employed to visit these veterans' farms; no shop work is possible - Negro veterans won't be allowed to do their farm-shop training in the shop of the white high school where "on paper" they are enrolled. Intentionally or not, this arrangement helps to prevent the Negro high school from qualifying for an agriculture department and it enables the supervisor to use, if he chooses, tuition from the training of Negro veterans to broaden education facilities for the white high school. The Negro high school in this town is the poorest excuse for a high school that I have seen in most of the Southern states.

Hot Springs and Fort Smith are the only two of the thirteen towns visited where Negro veterans can find a fairly well equiped high school trade shop. The rest of the towns have no high school trade shops at all or perhaps you'll find only a room with two saws, a hammer, a few nails and a small pile of saw dust, called a shop.

Arkansas has a long way to go toward giving Negro veterans, "separate but equal" educational opportunities.

EMPLOYMENT

We want fair employment. The Veterans Administration, an agency created solely to supervise the affairs of veterans is one of the most unfair employers of Negro veterans in Arkansas. The Veterans Administration hires thousands of professional and clerical workers in Arkansas - only five of these are Negroes. These five Negroes are employed at the Negro State College in Pine Bluff

PAGE PARTIALLY ILLEGIBLE

Most of the task of getting employment for veterans is done by the USES. This agency in Arkansas does not employ even one Negro clerical or professional worker. This is a poor example for other employers to follow.

In my talks with the leading citizens and veterans, it was found that the USES only referred Negroes to menial job opportunities despite their qualifications and army acquired skills. There is no effort being made by the USES to attempt to get Negroes in other than the "traditionally so-called Negro jobs."

In all of the thirteen towns visited where USES offices are located, I arranged conferences with officials and discussed job opportunities; none of these officials have been able to furnish any information on the placement of Negro veterans in any other than the menial jobs. I have found a lot of good wishes but no good jobs.

HOUSING

The problem of housing is an old problem to Negro veterans, prior to Army days, they were faced with the problem of inadequate housing - today he comes back to the same old run-down houses on the same old run-down streets. None of the towns visited were making any noticeable improvement or building any appreciable number of new houses for Negro veterans.

FAILURE OF RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS TO GET AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROBLEMS OF NEGRO VETERANS

In all of these towns visited (with the exception of Pine Bluff) I have found white officials in all of the Veterans' Centers. These officials as unfamiliar as they frequently are about Negro communities, social institutions and schools, they are handicapped with respect to advising Negro veterans even if their intentions are good. Not only is this true, but policy-making officials in the state and regional offices are not being presented with specific problems that face such a large number of veterans, as Negroes.

GENERAL

Generally, I have found that Negro veterans are un-informed about their rights and their opportunities under the G. I. Bill. They have a vague idea about their rights but lack the "know-how" of making the right contacts.

At a meeting of a group of seventy-five veterans and community leaders, in Forrest

City, I asked if every one who even knew where the veterans contact office was located, to hold up their hands - only two hands were held. Forrest City had eighty-eight white veterans on the training program and only two Negros. Negroes comprise more than 40% of the population in Forrest City.

Not only are the Negro veterans uninformed but the same is true of Negro leaders. These agencies that officially handle the affairs of veterans have no official connections with Negro leaders or organizations, therefore Negroes get their information mostly from "second-handed" sources.

CONCLUSION

Well, that is part of the story. A great American, Teddy Roosevelt, once wrote: "Any man who offers his life in defense of his country, deserves a square deal from that country, no man should ask for more, no man should receive less."

Arkansas has a long ways to go toward giving Negro veterans "a square deal."

The future looks hopeful - organizations like this - built on a sincere desire to understand and to better relations among all the people of the community. This is a right step in a right direction. An old Chinese proverb reads: "That even the longest journey must begin with a single step."

Robert Lee, Wolfe.
~~Wood~~
1216 W. Grand Blvd
Detroit, 8, Mich.

Kenneth Wolfe
next Friday

C
O
P
Y

The Marine Corps League is a veterans organization that limits its membership to Marines, active and discharged. Like the Marine Corps, it was so-called lily-white and womanless before World War II. The war changed things for the Marine Corps - Negroes and white women were added, so when the call went out for members among discharged Marines, something new was added, Negroes and white women.

In order to assist the Marine Corps League in enrolling new members, Headquarters, Marine Corps, supplied the organization with names of all Marines residing in nearby areas, without any racial distinction being shown. In Oklahoma City, the local chapter of the Marine Corps League sent out a call to all Marines, using Headquarter's list of Marines. Negro Marines received the call. One of my old shipmates, Frank Simmons, invited me to visit the meeting with him in order to see what was wanted. The meeting was held in the conference room of the Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce, located in one of the larger office buildings.

Two minutes before the scheduled meeting, Mr. Simmons and I stepped off the elevator into the reception room of the Chamber of Commerce, where about twenty white Marines were informally chatting and smoking. A hush came over the entire room as we entered. We went over to a group and introduced ourselves and inquired about the meeting. We were informed that the formal meeting would begin in a short while - so we started recounting Pacific war days with several white Marines who had visited the areas we had seen; in the meantime, another Negro Marine strayed into the room and joined us. Finally, the meeting was called to order in the conference room - all of us took seats around a big conference table. The minutes were read; the president made the usual speech of greetings to old and (prospective) new members; a few items of business were discussed and then it came time to invite new members. The room was tense with an air of indecision and excitement, as I have seenmany times while we waited to determine whether to shoot a plane down because we weren't able to tell whether it was friend or foe. They didn't want Negroes to join, but they couldn't legally refuse us admission. Silently the application forms were passed to everybody. We took ours and filled them out like everybody else. Everybody was watching us. I was studying every face, including the three women Marines. I determined to bring feelings out into the open, so I said: "I know this is the first time we have had Negro Marines; I am visiting over here in Oklahoma studying opprtunities for Negro veterans; I live in Atlanta. If I join here, can my membership be transferred to the branch of the Marine Corps League in Atlanta? That did the trick of breaking up the tension; at least ten people tried to answer me at one time.

The president suggested that since a big part of the program of the Marine Corps League was social entertainment, the colored Marines might set up them a chapter where they can have their own dances, "just like the Colored American Legion Post". Mr. Frank Simmons spoke up and said that he hadn't joined the American Legion because that was about all they did - dances and drink beer; however, he told the group that he would get a few of the Negro Marines together and see what they thought about the president's idea. This plan seemed to sooth the feelings of most everybody. I kept watching everybody's face. Somehow, I could see that the secretary, a small young white woman, wanted to say something - so very much until she was turning in her chair. I spoke up again; I told them that I was a member of an interracial veterans organization in Atlanta, that we were more interested in doing some worthwhile things for the good of both white and Negro veterans than in beer drinking and dancing and that we met together and worked together. Whenever I saw a Marine, white, yellow, or black, I felt that here was a brother, and I stuck out my hand and said so - we had lived together,

worked together, fought together and died together during the war, and it was a sad sight to me to see a bunch of Marines who couldn't even meet and work together now after the last gun had stopped firing.

That was all this young woman needed- she rose to her feet and she pointed her finger in the face of every white man in the room, and she said: "Yes, we want these colored Marines, they have as much right to belong to this League as any one of us, we can learn a lot from them and they can learn a lot from us; I am ashamed of the talk that has been going on here tonight; I am for seeing these Marines accepted just like any other Marines." After her talk the League voted to accept Negro Marines as members if they desired to join or to help them organize separate chapters if they desired. Whenever I hear "the Marines have landed and the situation is well in hand", I'll forget the battle-clad leatherneck stepping across the bow of a landing boat, and think of a young woman Marine standing before a room of battle-scarred veterans pointing a scolding finger, defending the right of a minority group.

PAUL C. WILLIAMS, RICHMOND
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Southern Regional Council, Inc.

ROOM 432, 63 AUBURN AVENUE, N. E. ATLANTA 3, GEORGIA

A Council to attain, through research and action, the ideals and practices of equal opportunity for all peoples in the South.

December 31, 1946

Mr. Ed T. McCuistion
State Department of Education
Little Rock, Arkansas

Dear Mr. McCuistion:

Here are two recent leaflets on services to Negro veterans in neighboring States.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Thanks! It was great to hear from you again & to know you're "in thin along" in your good work!

Sincerely
Ed McC

gm

December 31, 1946

Mr. T. G. Pullen
Education Department
Lexington Building
Baltimore, Maryland

Dear Mr. Pullen:

Here is a collection of recent leaflets printed by our Council on services to Negro veterans in several of the Southern States.

I will be grateful for your kindness in giving Mr. Huffington a set of these.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Res

January 7, 1947

Hotel Patton
Chattanooga, Tennessee

Gentlemen:

I would appreciate your kindness in reserving a single room for me the night of January 30th.

Sincerely,

GSM/lg

George S. Mitchell

January 7, 1947

Gen

Mrs. M. Ashby Jones
211 Beverly Rd. N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Mrs. Jones:

We are all deeply sorry to lose Dr. Jones.

I happened to be in Richmond just afterwards and saved this from the News Leader and also this from the New York Times.

Sincerely,

GSM/lg

George S. Mitchell

Enclosures: (2)

Stetson

January 7, 1947

Mr. Stetson Kennedy
75 Ivy Street
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Stetson:

Here is a nice review.

Sincerely,

GSM/lg

George S. Mitchell

Enclosure: (1)

Mem

January 7, 1947

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
29 West Washington Square
New York, N. Y.

My Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Lest this pleasing local item escape you I send it on.

Please do not trouble to acknowledge.

Sincerely,

GSM/lg

George S. Mitchell

Enclosure: (1)

January 7, 1947

Dr. Broadus Mitchell
315 W. 20th Street
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Broadus:

Here is Guy's letter to the Governor.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

Enclosure: (1)

444 S. Dock Street
Sharon, Pa.
January 9, 1947

Mr. George S. Mitchell
75 Guy Street, N. E.
Atlanta, Ga.

Dear Mr. Mitchell,

I know you will be somewhat surprised to receive this letter but I must thank you for the material you sent me back in 1944.

If you will remember back you spent some time in Mr. Ray Nixon's office in Charlotte and he told you about me and my plan for educational work and you sent me quite a wealth of information But my little boy was killed accidentally on the streets in Concord in 1944 and I just could not get my mind together to write them.

At that time I got a leave of absence and had it renewed but before I got back to the plant

to work the plant closed. Now I didn't file a claim for social security so now that I'm still unemployed I can't get anything because I didn't receive any in '44.

Since in Sharon, Pa. I have applied for work at the Westinghouse took the I. Q. test and passed but because I was married I couldn't be hired. So I'm here doing nothing. We have bought property here and intend to remain. I don't know what I can do here but if you send material here I may be able to do something in bringing about progressive nothing here.

Please let me hear from you.

Thank you very much

Mrs. Marion D. Hodge

January 10, 1947

Mr. Ira De A. Reid
309 W. 74th Street
New York, N. Y.

Dear Ira:

You were kind enough to undertake to look through and criticize this intended pamphlet. It still needs a good deal of doctoring I think.

I thought of printing a sort of running subject index in the right hand margins. Thus, a page that discusses jobs would show jobs in the upper right margin and one which discusses farm training would show farm training in its margin.

I would appreciate whirling words in criticism.

Sincerely,

GSM/lg

George S. Mitchell

AGRICULTURAL, MECHANICAL & NORMAL COLLEGE
PINE BLUFF, ARKANSAS

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

January 13, 1947

Mr. George S. Mitchell, Director
of Veterans Services
Room 432, 63 Auburn Avenue N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

In reply to your letter in which you enclosed a copy of Mr. Harry Wright's report on our facilities for training veterans, I think Mr. Wright's report gave a rather accurate picture. However, I think something more could have been said about the fact that the college is providing equipment and facilities as fast as possible; that we have been handicapped by lack of funds; the inability to obtain equipment quickly when ordered and other things of which we had little control.

You may use this information if you desire.

Yours very truly,

Lawrence A. Davis

Lawrence A. Davis
President

LAD:rj

Gen.

Young Women's Christian Association
320 Northwest First Street
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

January 15, 1947

Enclosed fifty copies of A Survey of Veterans Services for Negroes in Oklahoma.

50 copies .1.....$1.00

MRS. WILLIS KELLY WEST
PRESIDENT
VILONA P. CUTLER
GENERAL SECRETARY

Young Women's Christian Association

OKLAHOMA CITY

January 9, 1947

RECEIVED
JAN 11 1947
Southern Regional Council

To Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta, 3, Georgia

From Esther Hilseweck
Secretary to Miss Cutler

Will it be possible for the Oklahoma City YWCA to secure additional copies of the survey of Negro veterans in Oklahoma as compiled by Mr. Harry Wright?

What would be the cost and may we have about fifty copies?

OHIO STATE

Columbus 10, Ohio
Tower Club,
Jan 17, 1947.

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

I wrote you a few lines while I was home for Christmas vacation but evidently you did not get the letter. Things were fine while I was home. Didn't see very many of the F. S. A. boys, but the ones I did see said things were doing just fine.

I'm graduating in March. after that I'm going up to Madison from here and see if I can find more out about the deal up there. If my scholastic standing as an under-graduate won't permit me to do any graduate I guess I'll find myself look for a job about the first of april.

It been a hard fight but I'm on the last leg of the jump. Thanks to you for your past guidance. I hope that some day I'll be able to repay you in some way.

Sincerely

Abner N. Sullivan

Yes

January 20, 1947

Hotel Statler
Detroit, Michigan

Gentlemen:

I was registered January 14th through 17th at your hotel. My office forwarded to me Air Express a bundle of pamphlets. ~~These~~ or possibly may not have reached the hotel in time to catch me ~~and probably~~ they reached the hotel and my key box received no notice. I was registered first in Room No. ~~[illegible]~~ 1432 and subsequently in Room No. 503.

I should appreciate your kindness in locating the bundle of pamphlets and returning them to me by Parcel Post or ordinary express.

I enclose 50¢ postage, if more, bill me, if less, return balance. Your assistance will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

GSM/lg

George S. Mitchell

January 21, 1947

Mr. Julius A. Thomas
Director, Department of Industrial
Relations
National Urban League
1133 Broadway
New York 10, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Thomas:

Here is a speech I made to the Southern Superintendents of schools last month. I am sure you will be interested in getting Southern communities and Northern ones to take full advantage of this opportunity.

Sincerely,

GSM/lg

George S. Mitchell

Enclosure: (1)

January 21, 1947

Mr. Eugene B. Elliott
Superintendent Public Instruction
Lansing, Michigan

Dear Mr. Elliott:

I had the pleasure of talking with one of your Field Officials at the meeting of the Veterans' Education Council in Detroit last week, and from him learned of Michigan's arrangement for Veterans' Institutes.

I would be most grateful for your kindness in sending me what as may be later available about them - the statute, nature of local Institutes, statistics, etc.

Sincerely,

GSM/lg

George S. Mitchell

Enclosure: (1)

P.S. I am enclosing a recent effort of my own in this general direction, see page 3.

January 21, 1947

Mr. James G. Patton
The National Farmers' Union
Denver, Colorado

Dear Jim:

I went last week to a Conference of State and other officials interested in veterans education. I spent a good deal of time in a special Committee on On the Farm Training.

There, I heard for the first time some details for a development I have for a long time thought inevitable. In some states the veterans taking on the farm training have organized in each locality where a class is in progress a Veterans' Council These Councils they set up in order to bring to bear on their course of instruction their own views as to what was needed. The Council cooperates with the vo-ag teachers who are in charge of each class. They are effective in broadening the character of the teaching, in that they continually bring into the course matters of community and general public interest.

I assume, but do not know for a fact, that the classes in those states run as hereabouts, say, to 18 or 30 farmer-veterans. Correspondingly the Veterans' Councils would each contain about that number of veterans.

So far as I could hear, these new councils have not as yet shown an interest in farmer organizations as such; neither at the moment has the Farm Bureau or the Grange tried to enlist the councils as locales.

I understand that either Indiana or Illinois, I forget which, has many such councils and Kentucky has some.

I have not heard of the appearance of councils of this kind in the South.

I thought you would be interested in this development.

Sincerely,

GSM/lg

George S. Mitchell

P.S. Please find time to look at the article herewith on page 3. An obvious remediable measure for popul~~ar~~ous but poor farm country is more vocational schools. And now for veterans they can be had almost free.

Enclosure: (1)

Indian

January 22, 1947

Mr. Abner Nash Locklear
Tower Club
Ohio State University
Columbus 10, Ohio

Dear Abner:

I got your letter from Pembroke during the holidays and answered it as enclosed. Sorry it did not reach you.

I have no fear that your scholastic record would stand in the way of your doing graduate work. Your finishing is evidence of your determination and any decent University will take you on determination, besides, I am sure your grades are pretty good.

Sincerely,

GSM/lg

George S. Mitchell

Gen

January 22, 1947

Mrs. Marion D. Hodge
444 South Dock Street
Sharon, Pennsylvania

My dear Mrs. Hodge:

Many thanks for your letter of January 9th.

I left the PAC in June 1945 and have been working with The Southern Regional Council ever since.

You will see from the enclosed two or three pamphlets what my main interests are just now.

If I can help you in any way please let me know.

Sincerely,

GSM/lg

George S. Mitchell

Enclosures: (9)

January 22, 1947

Mr. C. V. McClain, National Representative
Textile Workers Union of America
Northwest Georgia Joint Board
538½ North Broad Street
Rome, Georgia

Dear Brother McClain:

It was my brother, Morris, who talked at Junaluska about co-ops.

So I have sent your letter straight on to him.

His address is Macedonia Co-op Farms, R.F.D., Clarksville, Georgia.

Sincerely,

GSM/lg

George S. Mitchell

CC: Mr. Morris Mitchell

VANPORT EXTENSION CENTER
OREGON STATE SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION
REPRESENTING, UNIVERSITY OF OREGON, OREGON STATE COLLEGE,
COLLEGES OF EDUCATION
PORTLAND, 17, OREGON

TELEPHONE
WEBSTER 7727

Gen.

January 24, 1947

George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services
Southern Regional Council
906 Lullwater Road
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

May I express my appreciation for the worthwhile contribution which you made to the work of Committee Five at the Veterans' Education Council in Detroit. It was a pleasure to work with you and I hope that we will meet again.

Best wishes to you in the work you are doing.

Sincerely yours,

Stephen E. Epler

Stephen E. Epler
Director

SEE:ho

Gen

January 23, 1947

Miss Corinne Pennington
Urban League
914 Gaines Street
Little Rock, Arkansas

Dear Miss Pennington:

It was very kind and thoughtful of you to send the postcard and it helped clear up a mix-up we got into about mail.

I enclose four (4) Air Mail stamps to keep your books straight. I don't know how I shall get out of the debt of kindness owed the Little Rock Urban League.

Sincerely,

GSM/lg

George S. Mitchell

Enclosures: 4 stamps.

January 20, 1947

Jackson, Miss. Address.

Dear Mr. Wright,

We have some mail for you that we have been receiving for the past few weeks. I have been expecting to hear from you concerning same.

Please let me know at once if you wish to have me keep the mail for you, or forward it to your office.

Sincerely,

Corinne Pennington

Corinne Pennington, Office Secreta
Urban League of Gr. Little Rock

HOTEL STATLER DETROIT

STAY Hotels STATLER in BOSTON BUFFALO CLEVELAND ST. LOUIS WASHINGTON
NEW YORK Hotel Pennsylvania PITTSBURGH Hotel William Penn

RECEIVED
JAN 27 1936

Dr. Geo. S. Mitchell

Dear Sir,-

We are forwarding to you to-day the package for which you wrote.

Enclosed is .25 which is balance from money sent for postage of package.

Mail Clerk
G. Church

FARMERS EDUCATIONAL AND COOPERATIVE UNION of America
3501 EAST 46th AVENUE, DENVER, COLORADO
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

January 28, 1947.

Mr. George S. Mitchell
C.I.O. - Political Action Committee
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear George:

I did not receive the article which you said you were enclosing regarding veterans education and "On the Farm Training." I wonder if you would send another copy of it directly to Ben Stong at Denver?

I have felt for some time that the Farmers Union ought to be more active in this field but I don't know just how we should go about it.

Kindest personal regards.

Sincerely,

NATIONAL FARMERS UNION

James G. Patton
President

JGP:AW

January 28, 1947

Mr. R. H. Schaublin
Chief, Educational Retraining
Veterans Administration
Dearborn, Michigan

Dear Mr. Schaublin:

It is a pleasure to send you copies of the literature requested in your letter of January 22nd. I am adding one or two others. I should be glad to send additional copies to any one you might suggest.

Sincerely,

GSM/lg

George S. Mitchell

Enclosures: (10)

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION

DEARBORN, MICHIGAN

January 22, 1947

YOUR FILE REFERENCE:

IN REPLY REFER TO: DB10-CF

RECEIVED
JAN 24 1947

Southern Regional Council
63 Auburn Avenue, N.E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Gentlemen:

I am in receipt of a bibliography compiled by the Veterans Education Conference, January 17, 1947 in Detroit.

Could you please send me the following material:

Brochure - Farmer-Veterans
Monthly publication - New South, 1946 issues (Feb.,Apr.,Dec.)
Pamphlet - Services to Negro Veterans in Louisiana
Pamphlet - Survey of Vets Services for Negroes in Oklahoma
Pamphlet - Survey of Vets Services for Negroes in Arkansas

Thank you for consideration shown in this matter.

Very truly yours,

R. H. Schaublin

R. H. SCHAUBLIN
Chief, Educational Retraining

An inquiry by or concerning an ex-service man or woman should, if possible, give veteran's name and file number, whether C, XC, K, N, or V. If such file number is unknown, service or serial number should be given.

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION

Branch Office No. 9
420 Locust Street
St. Louis 2, Missouri

YOUR FILE REFERENCE:

January 30, 1947

IN REPLY REFER TO: SL7D

Mr. George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
Room 432, 63 Auburn Avenue, N.E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

Your letter of January 20, 1947, with attached copies of the "New South" is hereby acknowledged. This office sincerely appreciates your consideration in sending us ample copies of this publication. Rest assured that they will be distributed among the members of our service where they will be of the greatest benefit.

Very truly yours,

E R Hodges

E. R. HODGES, Acting Director
Vocational Rehabilitation
and Education Service

An inquiry by or concerning an ex-service man or woman should, if possible, give veteran's name and file number, whether C, XC, K, N, or V. If such file number is unknown, service or serial number should be given.

STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

EUGENE B. ELLIOTT, SUPERINTENDENT

LANSING

January 31, 1947

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Avenue, N.E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

Dr. Elliott has asked me to reply to your letter of January 21 asking for information relative to Veterans' Institutes in Michigan. I am enclosing:

a. A copy of the law
b. A list of approved Veterans' Institutes
c. A statistical report as of December 10th

Veterans' Institutes are operated in Michigan by local boards of education subject to approval of the State Board of Education. Veterans are encouraged to enroll at anytime and to progress at their own rate. Correspondence materials are permitted.

I would be very happy to answer any specific questions that you might want to ask.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Sharer

Robert E. Sharer, Chairman
Veterans' Institute Approval
Committee

RES:im
Encl.

To Dr Mitchell

AN ACT to authorize certain school districts to establish and operate veterans' institutes; to provide equipment, services and personnel; to prescribe the qualifications of teachers; to authorize the use of correspondence school courses; to authorize boards to charge tuition and fees therefor.

The People of the State of Michigan enact:

Section 1. The Board of Education of any school district which maintains an approved high school may establish, equip and maintain a veterans' institute primarily for the education of returning World War II veterans. The veterans' institute shall be operated as a separate department of the school system and shall provide courses suitable for the educational needs of veteran students: Provided, That courses shall not be offered in the veterans' institute in grades higher than those maintained for pupils enrolled in the regular courses of study offered by the district.

Section 2. The qualifications of teachers in veterans' institutes established hereunder shall be determined by the state board of education.

Section 3. Correspondence courses and similar extension courses and services may be used in the veterans' institute provided such courses and services are taken under the supervision and direction of teachers in the veterans' institute. The requirements of the school code and the state board of education relating to certification of teachers shall not apply to the personnel employed by approved correspondence schools. The board of education may furnish such correspondence and extension materials and services by contract and at district expense. The correspondence school courses may be purchased only from approved correspondence schools, operating within or outside of the state. The state board of education shall determine the standards of approval of all correspondence schools which shall be permitted to sell correspondence courses to boards of education under this act.

Section 4. Enrollment in a veterans' institute shall be available to all World War II veterans residing within the school district and to such number of non-resident veterans as the local board of education shall determine. The local board of education may enroll resident and non-resident students other than World War II veterans in the veterans' institute based upon entrance qualifications to be determined by the local board.

Section 5. The local board of education shall charge tuition fees to both resident and non-resident students in the veterans' institute, and may charge such shop and laboratory fees as the board deems necessary.

Section 6. No school district shall continue the operation of a veterans' institute for a period longer than 7 years after the termination of hostilities of World War II.

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.

APPROVED VETERANS' INSTITUTES
December 10, 1946

1. Addison
2. Adrian
3. Albion
4. Allegan
5. Alma
6. Alpena
7. Ann Arbor
8. Bad Axe
9. Battle Creek
10. Baraga
11. Bay City
12. Beaverton
13 Bellevue
14. Big Rapids
15. Benton Harbor
16. Boyne City
17. Bronson
18. Caro
19. Cadillac
20. Charlevoix
21. Charlotte
22. Cheboygan
23. Chesaning
24. Coldwater
25. Coopersville
26. Clare
27. Croswell
28. Crystal Falls
29. Dearborn
30. Decatur
31. Deckerville
32. Detroit
33. Dowagiac
34. East Tawas
35. Eaton Rapids
36. Elkton
37. Escanaba
38. Evart
39. Evart
40. Ferndale
41. Flint
42. Fremont
43. Gaylord
44. Gladstone
45. Gladwin
46. Grand Haven
47. Grand Ledge
48. Grand Rapids
49. Grayling
50. Greenville
51. Grosse Pointe
52. Hamtramck
53. Harbor Beach
54. Hart
55. Hastings
56. Highland Park
57. Hillsdale
58. Holland
59. Homer
60. Houghton
61. Howell
62. Ionia
63. Iron Mountain
64. Ishpeming
65. Ithaca
66. Jackson
67. Kalamazoo
68. Kingsford
69. Lake Orion
70. L'Anse
71. Lansing
72. Lapeer
73. Lincoln Park
74. Lowell
75. Ludington

76. Manistee
77. Manistique
78. Marlette
79. Martin
80. Marquette
81. Mayville
82. Melvindale
83. Menominee
84. Merrill
85. Mesick
86. Midland
87. Millington
88. Monroe
89. Mt. Clemens
90. ~~Munising~~ Mt. Pleasant
91. Munising
92. Muskegon
93. Muskegon Heights
94. Nashville
95. Negaunee
96. Newberry
97. Niles
98. North Branch
99. Northville
100. Onsted
101. Ontonagon
102. Onaway
103. ~~Saint~~ Olivet
104. Owosso
105. Otsego
106. Ovid
107. Oxford
108. Paw Paw
109. Peck
110. Perry
111. Pigeon
112. Petoskey
113. Plymouth
114. Pontiac
115. Port Huron
116. Reed City
117. River Rouge
118. Rock
119. Rockford
120. Rogers City
121 Roscommon
122. Roseville
123. Royal Oak
124. Sault Ste. Marie
125. Saginaw
126. Sand Creek
127. Sandusky
128. Saranac
129. Sebewaing
130. South Haven
131. Stambaugh
132. St. Clair
133. St. Ignace
134. St. Louis
135. Stephenson
136. St. Johns
137. Sturgis
138. Suttons Bay
139. Tecumseh
140. Three Rivers
141. Traverse City
142. Van Dyke
143. Vassar
144. Vermontville
145. Wakefield
146. Wayland
147. Wayne
148. West Branch
149. Woodland
150. Williamston
151. Yale
152. Wyandotte
153. Ypsilanti

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Eugene B. Elliott

DATE: December 4, 1946
(Corrected on Dec. 10, 1946)

FROM: Robert E. Sharer

SUBJECT: Statistical report on Veterans' Institutes

Recently school superintendents of districts operating Veterans' Institutes were asked to submit a statistical report as of December 1. The following data have been compiled from these reports.

A. General Data

1. Number of Veterans' Institutes Approved (Dec. 10)	152
2. Number of Questionnaires mailed (Nov. 20)	142
3. Number of Questionnaires returned (Dec. 10)	119

B. Employed Personnel

	Number of Institutes	Number of Persons
4. Superintendent of H.S. Principal acts as V.I. Director	22	22
5. Board of Ed. employs fulltime or part time V.I. Director	97	97
6. Full time teachers employed in Veterans' Institutes	26	71
7. Part time teachers employed in Veterans' Institutes	99	641
8. Total personnel employed in Veterans' Institutes	124	831

C. Veteran Enrollment

	Number of Institutes	Number of Students
9. Students enrolled full time (25 hours per week) (high school 1828. Junior College 18)	46	1909
10. Students enrolled part time (high school, agriculture, related instruction for job training)	115	8399
11. Total number of students enrolled	115	10,308

Note: Four institutes reported no enrollments as organization was incomplete

D. Classification of Enrollments

	Number of Institutes	Number of Students
12. Students enrolled in Junior College level courses	3	318
13. Students enrolled in high school level courses (full time 1891. Part time 2131.)	53	4022

	Number of Institutes	Number of Students
14. Students enrolled in Related Instruction courses for on-the-job training enrollees	84	6383
15. Students enrolled in Institutional agriculture training courses	45	665
16. Total, all types	115	10,308

E. Curricular Offerings

	Number of Institutes	Number of Students
17. Use of correspondence materials and services	73	2462
18. Schools not using correspondence courses	42	

F. Qualifications of Administrative Personnel

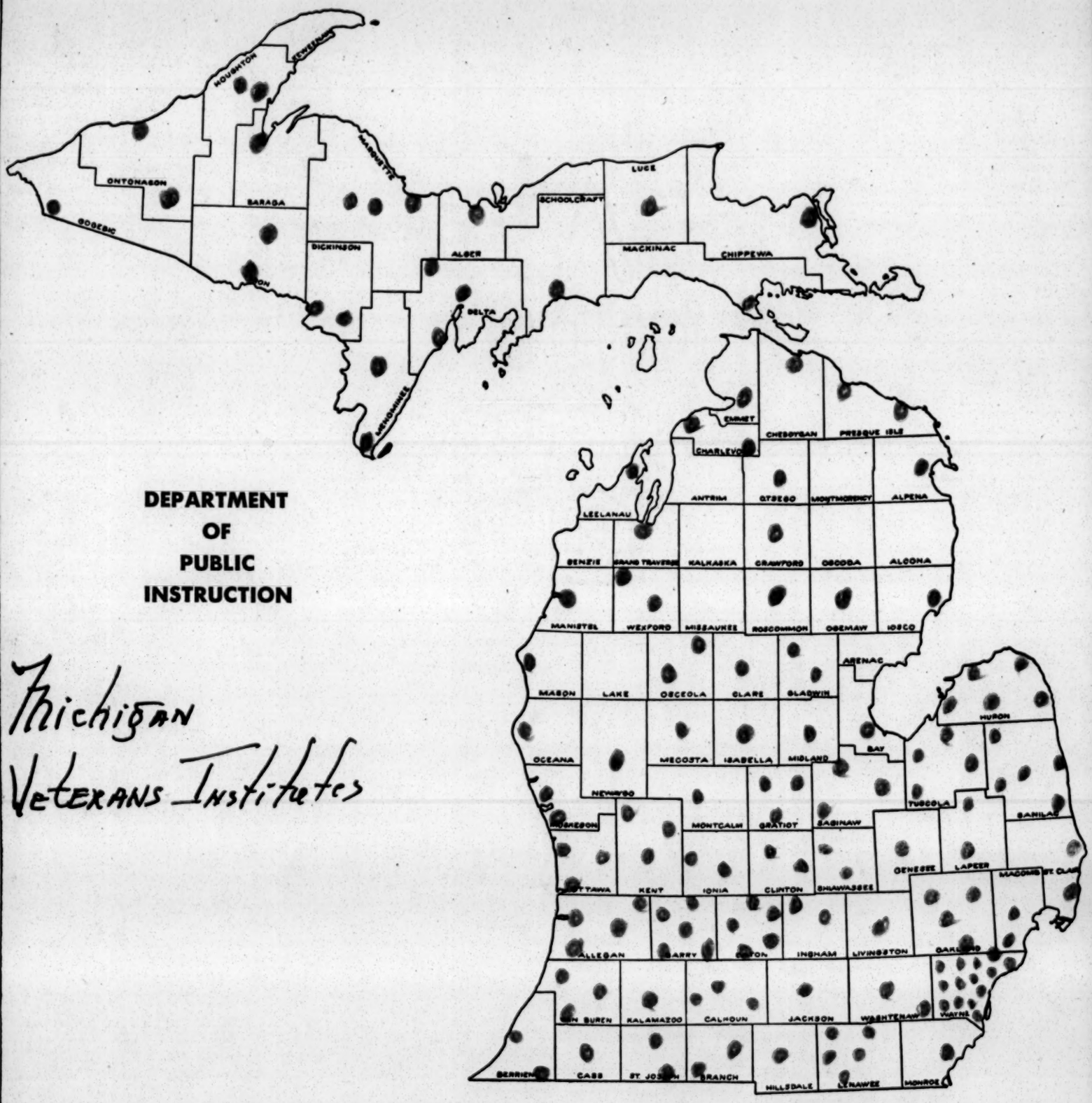
	Number of Institutes	Number of Persons
19. Directors possessing M.A. or M.S. Degree	54	54
20. Directors possessing A.B. or B.S. Degrees	60	60
21. Directors possessing Life Certificates, no degrees	3	3
22. Directors possessing special or temporary certificates	2	2

Note: In addition to the four schools included in this summary, it is estimated that about 10 other approved institutes are not operating

Excluding Detroit, the average enrollment of the 114 reporting institutes is 72 veterans. Excluding Detroit (2013) total enrollment of 114 institutes is 8295.

Estimating the 10 of the 20 institutes not reporting as having only 60 enrolled in each, and 10 not in operation at all, the total enrollment in all operating institutes would be increased by 600 or a total of 10,908.

Of the 152 approved Veterans' Institutes, 24 are located in the Upper Peninsula and 128 in the Lower Peninsula. Only 8 counties - Antrim, Benzie, Alcona, Oscoda, Crawford, Kalkaska, Montmorency, and Lake have no Veterans' Institutes.



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Michigan Veterans Institutes

THOMAS G. PULLEN, JR.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LEXINGTON BUILDING
BALTIMORE 1, MARYLAND

January 31, 1947

Mr. George S. Mitchell
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
Room 432
63 Auburn Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

Thank you very much for your letter of January 22, in which you enclose copies of The New South, which carry a greater part of the talk you gave before the Southern States School Officials.

It was a pleasure to see you again on our trip to Gulfport.

Sincerely yours,

T. G. Pullen, Jr.

State Superintendent of Schools

TGP:REH

February 4, 1947

Mr. O. Myking Mehus, Chief,
Vocational Rehabilitation and
Education Division
Veterans Administration
Regional Office, Municipal Auditorium
Kansas City 6, Missouri

Dear Mr. Mehus:

I greatly appreciate your letter of January 29th. Here are more bulletins on the problems of Negro veterans.

Sincerely,

GSM/lg

George S. Mitchell

Enclosures: (8)

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION
Regional Office
Municipal Auditorium
Kansas City 6, Missouri

January 29, 1947

YOUR FILE REFERENCE:

IN REPLY REFER TO: R

Mr. George S. Mitchell
Director, Veterans Services
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
Room 432, 63 Auburn Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

I appreciate very much your sending to this office three copies of the "New South." I am distributing them to our staff members. I was very glad to see your article on vocational schools for veterans.

We have some excellent trade schools for Negro veterans here in Kansas City and we are doing everything possible to encourage additional trade schools for Negroes, because we feel very keenly that Negro veterans are entitled to just as good educational opportunities as any other group of veterans.

I might add that we have a group of Negroes from greater Kansas City that meets in my office every six weeks to discuss with us various problems that affect particularly the training of Negro veterans. These meetings have been very helpful and have brought about a better understanding of our problems and have helped us to do more effective work for Negro veterans.

I will be very glad to receive any literature you may have on Negroes, and will also be glad to receive the "New South" as it is published.

Very truly yours,

O. MYKING MEHUS, Chief,
Vocational Rehabilitation
and Education Division

An inquiry by or concerning an ex-service man or woman should, if possible, give veteran's name and file number, whether C, XC, K, N, or V. If such file number is unknown, service or serial number should be given.

Ohio Gen'l

CRILE **VETERANS ADMINISTRATION** HOSPITAL

Cleveland 9, Ohio

February 10, 1947

YOUR FILE REFERENCE:

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Mr. George S. Mitchell
Director, Veterans' Service Division
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
906 Lullwater Road
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

Thank you for forwarding the pamphlet "Vocational Schools for Veterans".

It was a pleasure working with you on Committee 5.

Very truly yours,

Myrtle A. Anderson

Myrtle A. Anderson
Chief, Educational Retraining

An inquiry by or concerning an ex-service man or woman should, if possible, give veteran's name and file number, whether C, XC, K, N, or V. If such file number is unknown, service or serial number should be given.

Gen

February 17, 1947

North Carolina Mutual
Life Insurance Company
District Office
Box 691
Lynchburg, Virginia

Dear Sirs:

We do not know of Mr. Fawcett at this address.

Sincerely,

GSM/lg

George S. Mitchell

Enclosures: (2)

Gen

February 17, 1947

Progressive Citizens of America
205 E. 42nd St.,
New York 17, N. Y.

Gentlemen:

Your addressograph plates carry my name twice.

In the interest of economy I suggest you delete one and leave the one which I have labeled correct.

Sincerely,

GSM/lg

George S. Mitchell

Enclosures: (2)

Gen

February 19, 1947

State Highway Department
Raleigh, N. C.

Gentlemen:

Yesterday I had my first occasion in the last year or so to go up U.S. 70 to Asheville from the Eastern part of North Carolina.

As I got nearly to the old five mile road-block from Conover to past Hickory, I thought how greatly North Carolina needed a by-pass around that congested stretch.

Just as I was about to dive into it with resentment-smacko! my eye caught your sign, "By-pass - Hickory", turn left. With sudden appreciation I went left.

Your newly cut stretch through there is a beautiful job!

I thought you would like to know of the appreciation of one out of state traveler for your care and forethought in providing that convenience.

Hickory is a nice town of course but the by-pass saves many minutes and much bad temper.

My praise to your State and the way it's served by its Government.

Sincerely,

GSM/lg

George S. Mitchell

February 26, 1947

Mr. Julius A. Thomas, Director
Department of Industrial Relations
National Urban League
1133 Broadway
New York 10, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Thomas:

Here is the dope I promised to send you.

Sincerely,

HLW/LG

Harry L. Wright
Field Representative

February 27, 1947

Mr. A. C. Mezerik
63 Washington Square
New York 12, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Mezerik:

Thank you for your letter of February 18th.

I am sorry we did not get together for a conversation when you were last in Atlanta. I shall hope for an opportunity next time.

Our Council did send out in its last mailing leaflets on the series.

Sincerely,

GSM/lg

George S. Mitchell

A. G. MEZERIK
63 WASHINGTON SQUARE
NEW YORK 12, N. Y.

February 18, 1947.

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

I'm sorry that events got me so tangled that I never could follow thru my inclination and see you last week. When I come again I hope to be given the privilege once more.

Meanwhile I wonder if the series (advertised in the enclosed circular) has any interest for you and your group. If it does and you could, without trouble, either supply THE NATION with a mailing list or include copies (supplied by THE NATION) with one of your regular mailings, it would be a great help.

Won't you let me or Miss Shultz know? Miss Lillie Shultz is director of The Nation Associates, 20 Vesey Street, New York City 7.

Sincerely,

A G Mezerik

Mr. George Mitchell
Southern Regional Council
Wesley Memorial Building
Atlanta, Georgia.

AGM:mm
encl.

DIXIE
IN BLACK AND WHITE

A Series of Articles by
A. G. MEZERIK

I. Chapel Hill, North Carolina
- Christianity Moves Into the Churches.
- The Baptist Churches of the South Catch Up With the Race Issue.
- Company Towns Become CIO Towns — Thomasville, North Carolina Settles a Strike.

II. Atlanta, Georgia
- Race and Hate Are Politics—They Make Strong Reaction and 1947 Style, Strong Liberals.

III. Birmingham, Alabama
- Big Jim Folsom of the People and Maybe for the People Too.
- A Liberal State—With a Poll Tax and the Boswell Amendment.
- Reaching the People. The Southern Farmer and Southern Weeklies.

IV. New Orleans, Louisiana
- The Southern Liberals Fight It Out.
- Northern Liberals Not Wanted by Southern Liberals—"Southern Chip on My Shoulder."

V. Houston, Texas
- The City of Tough Guys, Capitalists Who Buy Up Fascist Movements.
- The Biggest State is a Ripe Plum for Eastern Monopoly.
- Political Puppets Doctoring Education to Please Texas Tycoons.

VI. Knoxville, Tennessee
- TVA Has Worries . . .
  - Is Atomic Energy a Frankenstein to Displace Hydro?
  - The Phosphates War.
  - DuPont and Alcoa are the Biggest Beneficiaries of TVA.
  - TVA's Big Test—Second String Leadership.

VII. Louisville, Kentucky
- Kentucky and all the Southern States Want New Constitutions.
- Machine vs. the People's Lobby.
- Good Newspapers Make the Difference—Southern Newspapers.
- How Louisville Gets Labor Peace.

BEGINNING IN EARLY MARCH

THE *Nation*

AMERICA'S LIBERAL WEEKLY SINCE 1865

• The Author •

A. G. Mezerik's primary interest is the impact on human beings of the process of industry. His articles have appeared in such magazines as Atlantic Monthly and Harper's. He is the author of "The Revolt of the South and West," a book dealing with the ferments of the less developed areas in our own country. A widely applauded work both in the North and South.

Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., author of "Age of Jackson," writing in *The Nation* says: "'The Revolt of the South and West' is a basic for students of current American politics; and it should be read, in particular, by every one interested in the possible origins and hallmarks of the next New Deal."

Ellis Arnall, former Governor of Georgia, says: "Too long have the South and West been attached to an imperial East as colonial appendages . . . I commend the book. It is a factual challenge to America."

Senator Lister Hill of Alabama, says: "The book is so timely. It is a challenge, not only to the people of the South and West, but to all the people of the United States. I only wish that all of them could read it."

SPECIAL OFFER
25 Weeks for $2

THE NATION,
20 Vesey Street, New York 7, N. Y.

Since I am anxious to get the A. G. Mezerik series, please send me *The Nation* for the next 25 weeks, for which I enclose my remittance of $2.

Name.....

Address.....

City..... Zone..... State.....

March 10, 1947

THE NEW REPUBLIC
40 East 49th Street
New York 17, N. Y.

Dear Sirs:

Please be good enough to enter a one-year subscription for Mr. Abner Nash Locklear, The Tower Club, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio.

I enclose my check for $6.00. This is a graduation present to an agriculture student at Ohio State University who is a friend of mine.

He will leave O.S.U. in a few days so there is no good setting up an addressograph plate for him at the Ohio State University address. It is trouble to you but you should write him and ask him where he wants the subscription sent.

Sincerely,

GSM/lg

George S. Mitchell

Enclosure: (1)

March 11, 1947

Board of National Missions of
the Presbyterian Church in the USA
156 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

Gentlemen:

It is a pleasure to inform you that Abner Nash Locklear graduates from Ohio State University with a B.S. in Agriculture March 14th. He hopes to go on to the University of Wisconsin for a year or two of graduate study. This is of course available to him under the G.I. Bill.

Sincerely,

GSM/lg

George S. Mitchell

March 11, 1947

Mr. Clarence E. Pickett
American Friends Service Committee
20 South Twelfth Street
Philadelphia, Penn.

Dear Mr. Pickett:

It is a pleasure to inform you that Abner Nash Locklear graduates from Ohio State University with a B.S. in Agriculture March 14th. He hopes to go on to the University of Wisconsin for a year or two of graduate study. This is of course available to him under the G.I. Bill.

Sincerely,

GSM/lg

George S. Mitchell

March 11, 1947

Dr. Channing Tobias
Phelps-Stokes Fund
101 Park Avenue
New York 17, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Tobias:

It is a pleasure to inform you that Abner Nash Locklear graduates from Ohio State University with a B.S. in Agriculture March 14th. He hopes to go on to the University of Wisconsin for a year or two of graduate study. This is of course available to him under the G.I. Bill.

Sincerely,

GSM/lg

George S. Mitchell

NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE

FOR SOCIAL SERVICE AMONG NEGROES

1133 BROADWAY CHelsea 3-1838 NEW YORK 10, N. Y.

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AFFILIATES IN 54 CITIES IN 27 STATES

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
Julius A. Thomas, *Director*
LeRoy W. Jeffries, *Asst. Director*

March
Seventeenth
1947

Mr. George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Avenue, NE., Room 432
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

Many thanks for sending me the report on Mississippi. Mr. Wright was in the office last week and told me it should be ready soon.

Incidentally, we are trying to help him find a spot at the branch or regional office of the Veterans Administration.

I submitted my report to Shane MacCarthy with the request that General Erskine call a meeting of the Consultants. I haven't heard from Mr. MacCarthy yet, but I will probably be getting some word from him in the next day or two. I will keep you advised on any developments.

With best wishes, I am

Cordially yours,

Julius A. Thomas

Julius A. Thomas, Director
Department of Industrial Relations

JAT:RAK

Contributions to the National Urban League are deductible for income tax purposes

March 18, 1947

Miss Ann Tanneyhill
National Urban League
1133 Broadway
New York 10, N. Y.

Dear Miss Tanneyhill:

About this time last year, I needed to have some field work done in Southern Louisiana. Arrangements were made with Professor George W. Snowden at Dillard for him to pick two Negro veterans who would do this work. He named for me two young men one of whom was Mr. Wesley R. Brazier.

I employed Mr. Brazier at $8.00 per day plus travel on an actual expense basis. He covered the greater part of the parishes in Southern Louisiana, during the Summer months of 1946. He had to interview in each parish seat the principal veterans' servicing officer and then spread out in the parishes and knit a working relationship between Negro leadership, Negro veterans, and the veterans' servicing officials.

He did this work remarkably well. It was obvious to me that he was greatly helped by his professional training at the Atlanta University School of Social Work. He had the knack in an unusual degree of full and accurate reporting of his field interviews. He was, of course, subjected to every condition of inconvenience and slight usual in that deep Southern and rural area. Yet I am satisfied that in each situation he used courtesy and tact, and I know that he obtained the information and prepared the local acquaintanceships which I wished.

I was so pleased with Mr. Brazier's work that when last November it appeared that I would be in a position to employ one such field agent for the whole South for a year or more Mr. Brazier was my choice for the job. For full-time work I engaged him at $250.00 a month plus travel. He

came on around the first of January. I have had him traveling mainly in Florida where he has been making a survey of services for Negro veterans. Here again he has shown remarkable skill and enterprise in getting the information needed. I am most regretful that because of non-availability of money I had hoped for it is impossible for me to go through with my plan of using a field agent straight along full-time. Therefore, I am going to have to let Mr. Brazier go sometime next month.

Mr. Brazier has a good presence, has a clear mind and he is not only a hard worker but a self-starter at hard work. You can send him out on a field trip and be sure that he will diligently use every hour when his business in hand can be done. I think he would make you a competent and effective Secretary.

Sincerely,

GSM/lg

George S. Mitchell

NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE

FOR SOCIAL SERVICE AMONG NEGROES

1133 BROADWAY CHelsea 3-8888 NEW YORK 10, N. Y.

March 13, 1947

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

Dr. George S. Mitchell, Director
Veterans Service Division
Southern Regional Council
63 Auburn Avenue, N.E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Re: Brazier, Wesley R.
1950 Jackson Avenue
New Orleans 13, Louisiana

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

The individual whose name appears above, has filed a personnel record with the National Urban League, and has indicated a desire to be considered as a candidate for future employment with the National Urban League or one of its affiliated organizations.

We are anxious to complete the personnel record by securing statements from persons who can evaluate the professional training and ability of the applicant.

The applicant has given your name as a reference. From your knowledge of the background, education, and employment experiences of the applicant, and from contacts you have had with him, you are doubtless in a position to give an estimate of his abilities, and to tell us something about his character and personality.

If possible, your statement should give information on personal qualities, work performance, administrative ability and any qualifications and assets for working in the field of race relations.

Your statement will be greatly appreciated, for it will assist us in evaluating the candidate's fitness. A self-addressed, stamped envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

Sincerely yours,

NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE

by: Ann Tanneyhill

Enc.

AT:jc

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SERVICES
Research
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OPPORTUNITY—Journal of Negro Life

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Thirty-sixth Year of Service

•

AFFILIATES IN 54 CITIES IN 27 STATES

March 20, 1947

Mr. Frederick M. Kraut
Willkie Memorial Building
20 West 40th Street
New York 18, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Kraut:

Here is a copy of the first draft of a directory of veterans' organizations in the South.

You will see that the listings are of use only if the explanation on the front sheet is carefully read.

If we can help you in any way we want to.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM/lg

Enclosure: (1)

SIGMUND LIVINGSTON
National Chairman

RICHARD E. GUTSTADT
National Director

BENJAMIN R. EPSTEIN
Eastern Regional Director

EASTERN REGIONAL OFFICE
ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE of B'NAI B'RITH
Community Service Department
Willkie Memorial Building — 20 West 40th Street
New York 18, N. Y.
Telephone: MUrray Hill 3-7727

March 11th, 1947

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Southern Regional Council
63 Auburn Street
Atlanta, Ga.

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

Mr. Harry L. Wright visited my office yesterday and informed me that you were preparing a directory of veterans organizations in the South and suggested that you might possibly be in a position to spare a copy of same for me.

If a copy is available I would be grateful if you would forward it to this office.

I wish to thank you for any courtesy you may extend to me in this regard.

Very truly yours,

Frederick M. Kraut

FREDERICK M. KRAUT
Veterans Relations

FMK:ER

TO ELIMINATE DEFAMATION OF THE JEWS AND TO COUNTERACT UN-AMERICAN AND ANTI-DEMOCRATIC PROPAGANDA THROUGH A BROAD EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM; TO ADVANCE GOOD-WILL AND PROPER UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN AMERICAN GROUPS; TO PRESERVE AND TO TRANSLATE INTO GREATER EFFECTIVENESS THE IDEALS OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY.

GENERAL EDUCATION BOARD
FOUNDED BY JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER 1902
(INCORPORATED 1903)
49 WEST 49th STREET, NEW YORK 20

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JACKSON DAVIS, VICE PRESIDENT AND DIRECTOR
W. W. BRIERLEY, SECRETARY

ROBERT D. CALKINS, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
FRED McCUISTION, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
FLORA M. RHIND, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

March 20, 1947

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

Thank you very much for your letter of the seventeenth and the survey of services for Negro veterans in Mississippi. I am sharing this with my associates.

With kindest regards and best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Jackson Davis

Mr. George S. Mitchell
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

March 20, 1947

Mr. George H. Van Ness
Veterans Center
Hughes High School Building
Clifton Avenue and West McMillan St.
Cincinnati 20, Ohio

Dear Mr. Van Ness:

I don't operate any kind of school so I cannot help with the questionnaire.

I do attach a sheaf of printments which we have done.

Cincinnati is a sometime hometown of mine. I am glad that work is being done on getting the educational benefits for veterans at the secondary level.

Sincerely,

GSM/lg

George S. Mitchell

Enclosures: (7)

P.S. More of these leaflets if you should need them.

CINCINNATI PUBLIC SCHOOLS
VETERANS CENTER
HUGHES HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING
CLIFTON AVENUE AND WEST McMILLAN STREET
CINCINNATI 20, OHIO

GEORGE H. VAN NESS
DIRECTOR

TELEPHONE:
AVon 1580

Mr. George S. Mitchell
906 Lullwater Rd.
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Sir:

The attached questionnaire has been developed as a means of securing information on various practices in secondary school veterans education. Findings are to serve a dual purpose: to provide content for a master's thesis and to help in appraisal of procedures now in effect at the Cincinnati Veterans Center. For your information, copies of regulations of the Cincinnati Center are enclosed.

It will be greatly appreciated if you will check the items listed on the questionnaire, and also if you will forward to us any handout material at your disposal. A self-addressed, stamped envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

It will be our pleasure to send you a summary of our findings.

Sincerely yours,

George H. Van Ness

George H. Van Ness

THOMAS G. PULLEN, JR.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LEXINGTON BUILDING
BALTIMORE 1, MARYLAND

January 7, 1946

Mr. George S. Mitchell
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
Room 432
63 Auburn Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

Thank you for sending me the collection of leaflets on services to Negro veterans in the southern states. I am sure we shall find them interesting and helpful.

I have referred a set to Mr. Huffington.

Sincerely yours,

T. G. Pullen, Jr.

State Superintendent of Schools

TGP:REH

THOMAS G. PULLEN, JR.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LEXINGTON BUILDING
BALTIMORE 1, MARYLAND

MD

January 8, 1947

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
Room 432
63 Auburn Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta - 3, Georgia

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

Thank you very much for the recent leaflets sent to Dr. Pullen and me. I assure you we appreciate your interest in behalf of Negro Education in general and would be glad to receive any further similar data.

It was a pleasure to become better acquainted with you at the recent Gulfport Conference and to hear your scholarly treatment of the whole problem of Negro education in the south.

Sincerely yours,

Paul E. Huffington

Supervisor of Colored Schools

PEH:A

GENERAL EDUCATION BOARD
FOUNDED BY JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER 1902
(INCORPORATED 1903)
49 WEST 49th STREET, NEW YORK 20

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W. W. BRIERLEY, SECRETARY

ROBERT D. CALKINS, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
FRED McCUISTION, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
FLORA M. RHIND, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

February 5, 1947

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

Thank you for your letter of the twenty-seventh and a copy of the paper you read at our Edgewater Park conference. I am glad to have it and to know that it has been made available in this form.

With kindest regards and best wishes,

Cordially yours,

J.D.

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
Room 432, 63 Auburn Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

JD:jum

X

3EB

Tennessee Reports from Marcus H. Gunter, A Negro Veteran Traveling in the State.

April 6, 1946 - Nashville, Tennessee
Interview with Mr. C. E. Freeman, State Director Vocational Education

"They plan to build some more trade schools for Negroes. He was particularly pleased with the new Negro Vocational Trade School here in Nashville, and went on to say how much the equipment cost."

" " - Lebanon, Tennessee
Interview with the Veterans Service Officer, who is also the American Legion Service Officer.

"Mr. Martin told me he had a problem. There are no places for Negro veterans to train, because the white veterans are training in these places. He said some of the Negro veterans may think he is discriminating, but he is a fair man. He asked my help. He would like to get three or four well-educated Negroes to teach the Negro veterans trades. There will be a mass meeting there Tuesday."

April 13, 1946 - McKenzie, Tennessee
Interview with Negro County Agent

"I told him my mission and he knows the GI Bill of Rights very well and has contacted most of the veterans in the county. Sixty (60) applications for "on the Farm Training" have been filled out by him and a large number of applications for "On the Job Training". He is doing what I hope to accomplish in most of the communities. Mr. --- told me he secured a list of the veterans from the Office of Selective Service and went out and saw each one and told him his rights as a veteran. He is trying to get the county to set up a trade school at Webb High for veterans. A fine job is being done by Mr. ----."

April 21 - Memphis, Tennessee

Found two high schools teaching Negro veterans vocational subjects 3 PM to 9PM. Equipment good and instructors competent. "But there are men who will be waiting for 18 months before they can enter the school due to lack of space and instructors." Later he found people interested in pushing for a technical high school for Negroes in Memphis. Some evidence that approval and effort would be hard to get out of dominent political forces in the city.

April 29, 1946 - Jackson, Tennessee

"I attended the first meeting of the committee in Jackson Sunday. They called on Mr. Critter, the Veterans Service Officer, and asked him to provide training facilities for Negro veterans. There is a possibility of a trade school in Jackson. If they can find competent instructors the school will be started."

May 14, 1946 - Humbolt, Tennessee
Interview with a leading Negro businessman and member of Local Negro American Legion Post, also with two officials of the Negro post. The post commander teaches manual training in the high school.

"After hearing of the possibilites of starting a trade school, he became very interested."

" " - Whiteville, Tennessee
Interview with the principal of the local Negro Institute.

"He has more power in Henderson County than any other Negro. I told him my mission. We discussed farm training and on-the-job training. He has a perfect setup for a trade school, plenty of room and equipment. I am sure he will try to get the VA to approve his school."

May 19, 1946 - Murfreesboro, Tennessee
Interview with office manager of the Veterans Administration contact office.

"He told me the training facilities for Negroes in Rutherford County are limited. In our discussion I told him that all veterans must be trained, because it was the only way the South could advance. He said he would see the Mayor and the County Superintendent to see if they couldn't provide training facilities for the men at the high school."

" " - Shelbyville, Tennessee
Interview with principal of Bedford County Training School.

"In January he made an application for a trade school through the County Superintendent. He realizes that training facilities for Negro veterans will be needed. No answer has been received. He has checked on his application and was told to look for an answer any day."

June 4, 1946 - Chattanooga, Tennessee
Interview with two counselors of the Veterans Administration.

".....in an effort to find out what the Negro veterans were asking for. I was told most of them came in

hoping they could suggest something because they knew that training facilities were limited. The two Counselors I interviewed said the only solution for the men was formal training through vocational schools. They feel the Negro leaders should ask for a vocational school. This information was passed on to Negro civic leaders."

April 21, 1946 - Dyersburg, Tennessee
Interview with Veterans Service Officer.

"He stated 'On the job Training' was just about impossible for Negro veterans in Dyersburg. A number of them had been to see him concerning 'On the job Training' and he feels sorry for the poor fellows. He has written the State Department trying to find trade schools that take Negro veterans throughout the state. He asked me if I knew any place he could get them in school. I told him of Tennessee State, Hampton, Tuskegee, and Bordertwon School for Boys and then suggested to him starting a school at Bruce High School. He has never thought of it and it was right in his back yard. He asked me if they had a man who could teach vocational training, I told him Mr. Blackburn was a graduate of Fisk and studied woodwork and cabinetmaking at Hampton and was teaching manual training in the school. With a little money he could enlarge his shop to take care of a larger number of men. He asked me to inspect the shop and to make a report to him and have the principal and Mr. Blackburn come to see him. I am sure he will work something out."

June 21, 1946

Mr. Jackson Davis
General Education Board
49 West 49th Street
New York 20, New York

Dear Mr. Davis:

I have eight young Negro veterans traveling in the South trying to broaden educational, employment, and trade training opportunities for Negro veterans. They report to me from all over the South that new small trade training schools are springing up. Usually they are one, two, or three vocational courses added to the existing regular Negro high schools. They are being started because the Negro veterans are asking for training. They are small, overcrowded, and ill-equipped. But in each case they are the result of local effort. Usually the new teachers are being paid partly with Smith-Hughes funds.

Looking ahead, these could be the basis of a network of good trade training schools for Negroes.

Also, in five or six Southern states, at least, efforts are being made to convert military camps or hospitals into trade training institutions for Negro veterans.

These two things, particularly the first, need looking at, nursing, multiplying and bringing along.

In the hope that the Board might be interested in finding a way to get this job done by somebody, I would like to request an interview with you and, if arrangeable, jointly with Mr. McCuiston.

I could come to New York at your convenience.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Edwin R. Embree
President

Dorothy A. Elvidge
Secretary and Comptroller

Julius Rosenwald Fund

4901 ELLIS AVENUE
CHICAGO 15, ILLINOIS

Will W. Alexander
Charles S. Johnson
Directors for Race Relations

Fred G. Wale
Director for Rural Education

William C. Haygood
Director for Fellowships

June 18, 1946

My dear George: I was interested in your letter of June 6 which awaited my return from an absence from the office. Embree and Wale and I discussed at length what could be done to hold the employed trade teaching that you describe and use this as a foundation for developing better work of that sort in the Negro high schools.

This is the kind of thing that the General Education Board would probably be interested in. Our suggestion is that now, as oon as possible, you have a talk about this with Jackson Davis, or preferably with Jackson Davis and Fred McCuistion. They might do the following things:

(1) Call a meeting of the state agents in the South to discuss this whole matter and see what plans could be developed along the lines of your suggestion.

(2) If the thing looked sufficiently promising after this conference, the General Education Board might provide some funds for implementing a program to accomplish just what you suggested in your letter. Since they have so strongly supported the state agents and since I suppose what is done would have to be done through the state authorities, it seems to us better to deal with the General Education Board before we consider anything else. It seems also because you have the information, are on the ground, and have the responsibility of being a good Virginian that there is an advantage in your talking with Davis and McCuistion.

This is the best suggestion we could make, and I hope your time will enable you to approach the GEB.

Let us know what happens because we are genuinely interested. I think, however, it is better not to speak of our interest to the GEB representatives.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Will W. Alexander

Mr. George S. Mitchell
Southern Regional Council
63 Auburn Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

P.S. Your reports and letters are very stimulating to us here in the office. We all take them very seriously.

Forward

Since dictating the above, I have talked with Charles Johnson who thinks that McCuistion at the GEB is looking for things for the GEB to do and might be very much interested in your suggestion. If possible, it might be desirable to have McCuistion in when you interview Jackson Davis.

WWA

NC

June 5, 1946

Dr. Will W. Alexander
Hope Valley Farm
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Dear Dr. Will:

My reports from the veterans who are traveling for us show that all over the South new, small trade schools are popping up. They are usually just one or three trade courses added to existing Negro high schools. I suppose most of them use Smith-Hughes money for part payment of teachers. They are small and shabby. But they are in each case the product of an effort by local people. They are mostly of course to satisfy the wishes of Negro veterans for trade teaching. I doubt if they get much tuition money from the Veterans Administration. The federal money benefit is the GI pay to the veterans.

Looking ahead, you can see that these could be the basis of a widespread network of decent Negro trade training schools.

What is the way to get them looked at, nursed, multiplied, and brought along? We cannot have much hopes out of Studebaker and even less out of the RRA, whose business it properly is.

My hands are fairly full. Where could we turn for a man or a small staff to be engaged - I don't care by whom - to visit a number of these, write them up in State Education Journals, and interest officials and citizens in Counties and States in furthering them?

Or are there quite other things that should be done about them?

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

L W
SEB

July 1, 1946

Mr. Jackson Davis
General Education Board
49 West 49th Street
New York 20, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Davis:

Thank you for your letter of June 25th.

I shall be in New York on July 12th for the meeting on problems of minority veterans organized by the American Council on Race Relations.

With your permission, I will come to your office at nine-thirty that morning.

I am less concerned about money than about the best way to quicken Negro trade training.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

GENERAL EDUCATION BOARD
FOUNDED BY JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER 1902
(INCORPORATED 1903)
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ALBERT R. MANN, VICE PRESIDENT AND DIRECTOR
W. W. BRIERLEY, SECRETARY

JACKSON DAVIS, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
FRED McCUISTION, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
FLORA M. RHIND, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

June 25, 1946

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

I am very much interested in your letter about the facilities for vocational training of Negro veterans. Various State Departments of Education are looking after this matter. Mr. W. A. Schiffley of Orangeburg, South Carolina, formerly State Agent for Negro Schools, is in charge of this work in South Carolina. I would feel that the best approach would be through these men.

The field is too large for the Board, with its limited resources, to undertake, and it is obviously a job for the State and Federal Governments. Mr. McCuistion or I would be pleased to talk with you, but I cannot offer you encouragement for Board aid. I shall be in New York from July eighth through the rest of the month.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

Jackson Davis

Mr. George S. Mitchell
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

is

GEB

July 19, 1946

Mr. Jackson Davis
General Education Board
49 West 49th Street
New York 20, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Davis:

I appreciate greatly your kindness in making time for me on July 12th.

Plans were made for a trip to interview the various officials whom you mentioned.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

GEB

July 19, 1946

Mr. Jackson Davis
General Education Board
49 West 49th Street
New York 20, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Davis:

I appreciate greatly your kindness in making time for me on July 12th.

Plans are made for a trip to interview the various officials whom you mentioned.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

State of South Carolina

Department of Education

JAS. H. HOPE
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

COLUMBIA, S. C.
July 20, 1946

Mr. G. S. Mitchell
63 Auburn Avenue
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

I find it impossible for me to pass through Atlanta on July 24 as I had expected. However, I shall be in my office on Thursday and Friday, the 24th and 25th of July, and will be glad to see you then.

Yours very truly,

W. A. Schiffley

W. A. Schiffley, Director
Division of Veterans Education

WAS:mk

THIS PARCHMENT IS MADE FROM COTTON THE PRINCIPAL CROP OF THE SOUTH

gab

July 22, 1946

Miss Flossie Marchbanks
Secretary to Mr. Clyde A. Erwin
Superintendent of Public Instruction
Raleigh, N. C.

Dear Miss Marchbanks:

Many thanks for your letter of July 19th.

The twenty-seventh is my one day in Raleigh.

I am still hoping that I will have the luck to find Mr. Erwin in his office.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

4

State of North Carolina

Superintendent of Public Instruction

Raleigh

CLYDE A. ERWIN
SUPERINTENDENT

July 19, 1946

Mr. George Mitchell
Southern Regional Council
63 Auburn Avenue
Atlanta, Ga.

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

I understand from Mr. L.H. Jobe that you would like to see Dr. Erwin on Saturday morning, July 27. I am not sure that Dr. Erwin will be in the office that day but he will be here on Wednesday, July 24. If it is convenient for you to see him at that time he will be glad to see you. Please let us know if we may expect you on the 24th.

Very truly yours,

Flossie Marshbanks

Flossie E. Marshbanks
Secretary to Dr. Erwin

gen

July 22, 1946

Mr. Pullen
Education Department
Lexington Building
Baltimore, Maryland

Dear Mr. Pullen:

At the suggestion of Mr. Jackson Davis I am most anxious to discuss with you the practicability of a plan for enlargement of Negro trade and vocational education facilities in the South.

I shall be in the Washington and Baltimore area Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, July 29,30, and 31.

My best day to get to Baltimore would be Wednesday, July 31, but I could come over for either of the other days.

Would I find you available on the thirty-first or on one of the other days, and if so, what hour would be most suitable with you?

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

7-22-46

GENERAL EDUCATION BOARD TRIP

Jackson Davis suggested that I see Shiffley at Columbia, Clyde Erwin at Raleigh, Pullen of Maryland. Pullen's office is Lexington Building, Baltimore.

He also wanted me to see E. B. Norton, US Office of Education, who was formerly Superintendent of Schools in Alabama.

Additional person who could be seen are: Ralph Jones of Arkansas, Meadows of Alabama. At Columbia, S. C., see a Miss Willie Lou Grey.

9EB

W. A. SCHIFFLEY
Interviewed at Columbia, S. C., July 25, 1946

Somewhat, but I thought not greatly, interested in the idea. Results would come only if the project is worked at by responsible State officials themselves. A survey or report by an outside agency would probably be little regarded. He himself suggested that there was real need for guidance of all of the responsible State education officials on the kinds of trade instruction to give in view of further industrialization and of mechanization of agriculture in the Southern States as a whole.

CLYDE ERWIN
Interviewed at Raleigh, N. C., July 27, 1946

It would be very helpful if someone could quickly make a close study of legislation about donable Federal equipment. It seems now to be a catch as catch can game. How to get housing for school and college pupils is also a problem.

North Carolina presents a problem that he supposes is general in the South: Existing Negro trade schools are in the presently industrial areas of the State. If mechanization of agriculture is to push a lot of people out of agricultural areas, maybe special efforts should be made to get trade training directly into these areas. If so, what kind and what skills?

Teacher training for such schools is a problem that needs answering.

It would be good if a survey could be made to find out where the existing facilities are over the South and where new ones are needed.

Also, more information needs to be got from the Veterans Administration as to where the potential demand for trade training will be and what kinds of training the veterans want.

Mr. Erwin mentioned the fact that he is chairman of the Southern Council of Chief State School Officers. He thoughtthis body might possibly be the right one to have a look at some typical present trade schools and do some organized thinking about the future. He would gladly support such a move.

Mr. Erwin very kindly arranged for me to be present at the monthly meeting to be held in a few days time of the North Carolina State Veterans Education Council to explain this proposal and check it against the views of the officials who would be present.

E. D. NORTON
Interviewed at Washington, D. C., July 30, 1946

Cautiously receptive of the idea. Could see that need would early arise for

prescribing standards and supposed that he might shortly be called to work in this connection officially with the Retraining and Reemployment Administration.

Mr. Clyde Erwin happened to be in Mr. Norton's office at the time of my visit, and after a few minutes alone with Mr. Norton, Mr. Erwin was called in.

Very shortly a plan began to unroll. Erwin thought that it would be possible to set up a sub-committee of the Southern Council of Chief State School Officers which could supervise the making of a quick study. The Council itself is expecting to meet in a Tennessee city in early November, possibly the 8th or the 9th. In order to make official the status of such a sub-committee, Erwin would quite probably be willing to write to all the State superintendents in the Southern States and tell them that he was appointed such a sub-committee to make a study of this kind, results to be laid before the November meeting. Erwin's letter to the State superintendents could then request word from them whether they would concur in the establishment of such a sub-committee to do such a job. Suitable members of the sub-committee were discussed by Norton and Erwin. They thought perhaps Meadows of Alabama should be chairman. Members should include three State agents and three State chairmen of veterans education.

It would be necessary, they thought, for such a sub-committee to have available a modest sum (three, four, or five thousand dollars perhaps) to get a man to do the traveling and interviewing and writing up the material under the direction of the sub-committee. As a possible man to do a job of this kind, they agreed first on L. B. Haskew. Another possibility might be the man in agricultural teacher training at the University of Georgia, name not by them recalled. As to Haskew, they said he is now with the American Council on Education with an office at Columbia. Work believed to be drawing to a close, to go back to Emory. Erwin said, "Haskew has the confidence of our whole Southern group." Norton called him "an artist in human relationships". He was said to be skilled in research, had taken part in the Southern States Work Conference, and was a man who, if he said he could do it, dould.

Norton for a time resisted the idea of any outside person's being used for the actual writing and research, arguing that this should be done by somebody presently in a State administrative job, but I thought in the end he and Erwin both agreed on the wisdom of using someone full time for the next few months. And certainly they both agreed on Haskew.

The three of us discussed for awhile whether the study should address itself to the problems of veterans' and general trade education for white and for Negroes, or to the Negro end of it alone. I was surprised that both Norton and Erwin concluded that it would be right to make it a study of the problem of Negro education alone.

T. G. PULLEN
Interviewed at Baltimore, Md., July 31, 1946

The problem presented by Clyde Erwin about trade training in rural areas he

thought was best answered by what they are doing in Maryland with Industrial Arts training where background skills, and the use of tools, and measurement, and understanding of materials is given with the feeling that persons going with that equipment into cities would complete their skills in employer's own training course or in trade schools giving definite skills.

If a study were made, it should look closely at the developments in three or four Southern States. Obviously the Southern Council of Chief State School Officers was the agency to do such a job.

He mentioned as special immediate problems, teacher training and equipment. Money for schools is not now a problem.

He also thought - quite on his own - that the problem to be found out about is the Negro schools.

He showed no interest in a national study of this kind although he is, if I am not mistaken, president of the National association of State school superintendents.

Additionally, I interviewed Mr. George Glasheen, Chief of the Education and Rehabilitation Division of the Retraining and Reemployment Administration in Washington, and opened with him this general idea. He undertook to examine at an early date the wisdom of Federal administrative effort toward setting up standards for trade schools. He was glad to work closely with the Office of Education, the Veterans Administration, and the various States to this end.

8aB

August 9, 1946

Mr. T. G. Pullen
Education Department
Lexington Building
Baltimore, Maryland

Dear Mr. Pullen:

I greatly appreciate your kindness in finding time for our interview a week or ten days ago. I shall write you whether anything results.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

92B

August 9, 1946

Mr. W. A. Schiffley
Director of Veterans Education
State Department of Education
Columbia, South Carolina

Dear Mr. Schiffley:

I greatly appreciate your kindness in finding time for our interview a week or ten days ago. I shall write you whether anything results.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

8 E B

August 12, 1946

Mr. Jackson Davis
General Education Board
49 West 49th Street
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Davis:

You will recall that in our interview in New York on July 12 you suggested that I interview a number of Southern education officials and let you know what they said about the general idea in my letter to you of June 21.

I attach a summary of these interviews and a letter from Mr. Clyde Erwin, written after the matter had taken shape in his mind.

I also attended on August 5 the meeting of the North Carolina State Veterans Education Committee and discussed this possibility. Those present included Mr. Newbold; Mr. Erwin; Mr. Pickens, chairman of the North Carolina State Veterans Commission; Mr. Beddingfield, in charge of apprenticeship training for the State; Mr. Hillsman; and two or three others. None of these persons expressed any criticism of the idea, and they were unanimous in their opinion that it would be helpful if the State officials as a body could at their November meeting have the status and nature of the oncoming problem of Negro trade education clearly presented to them. They passed a resolution to this effect.

The proposal boils down to this: That the Southern Council of Chief State School Officers name a sub-committee to push through, supervise, and review a report to be made to its November meeting on the present status of Negro trade training schools in the South, the main problems being experienced by Southern school administrators in setting up and approving the schools, and related policy questions needing discussion and decision at the November meeting and action subsequently by the several State school systems.

The general notion was that because of the availability of special opportunities for establishing such schools mainly for veterans and because of the probability that industrialization and mechanization of agriculture will call within the next few years for growth and improvement of these schools, this is a critical time for the school officials

to know what they have, what they can get, and decide how they want it. The report, it is proposed, would be made by a full time but short time person especially engaged. He would presumably be asked by his supervising sub-committee to look at ten or a dozen of the schools in question, interview a number of State officials and officials of Federal agencies dealing with problems of veterans, and on the basis of his findings lay out not solutions but clear posings of the problems and possibilities involved.

I suppose such a man would cost six or seven hundred dollars a month for three months. Clerical and stenographic help would come to about seven or eight hundred dollars. Travel would be another seven or eight hundred. All told, say thirty-five hundred or four thousand dollars.

The Southern Council of Chief State School Officers doesn't have any such sum available, as you know.

I am satisfied that the Southern Council of Chief State School Officers would wish to go forward with such a proposal if the General Education Board would provide the money.

It seems to me that I have now done perhaps what is as much as I should on this proposal. I am out of my field in this matter of education. If the General Education Board is disposed to go forward in the matter, I would of course be delighted to discuss it in full with the sub-committee and/or with whoever is chosen to do the work.

If the proposal seems of value, it is of course important for action to begin at once.

I appreciate your kindness in giving attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

C
O
P
Y

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
Superintendent of Public Instruction
RALEIGH

August 7, 1946

Dr. George Mitchell
63 Auburn Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

It-was a pleasure to haveyou here on Monday afternoon for the purpose of discussing with our Veterans Education Committee the proposed study which you have in mind. I am glad to be able to write you that the committee, by unanimous vote, passed a resolution endorsing the study and expressing the opinion that it would be most helpful in charting our educational program for veterans and for underprivileged groups generally in the southern States. Personally, I concur wholeheartedly in the resolution of the Veterans Committee and it is my opinion that a quick study such as you propose would be a very important step in the further development of the equalization of educational opportunities generally in the southern States, in addition to its significance in terms of the immediate and pressing problems of veterans education.

With best wishes and kindest personal regards, I am

Very truly yours,

Clyde A. Erwin
State Superintendent of Public Instruction

S&B

August 14, 1946

Mr. Jackson Davis
General Education Board
49 West 49th Street
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Davis:

I have had fresh information just today from Mississippi.

A group of white persons, private citizens, have begun to open a chain of trade training schools for Negro veterans. They have three hundred men already in such a school at Greenville and a couple of hundred in Hattiesburg. Additional schools are on the way for Natchez, Vicksburg, and Jackson.

The maximum tuition is charged; white teachers are used exclusively. I had no report on the quality of teaching done.

Mr. Eason is said to have made an earnest effort to get schools of this kind started under State auspices. The State has a loan fund available , but, although requested, loans were not made for starting Negro State-operated trade training schools.

You readily see that after the veterans education emergency is off, the schools involved in the new chain stand a good chance of being junked. Even if they are bought by the State, much ground in integration will have been lost. The suspicion is that these are mainly profit making enterprises.

I take the liberty of calling this to your attention as I think it bears on the proposal for inquiry as to the status of Negro trade training throughout the South.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

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FRED McCUISTION, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
FLORA M. RHIND, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

August 16, 1946

My dear Mr. Mitchell:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of August 14th advising that trade training schools for Negro veterans have been started in Mississippi. Your communication is being placed with the previous correspondence on this matter for attention by Mr. Davis upon his return.

Sincerely yours,
Dorothy U. Newlett
Acting Secretary to Mr. Davis

Mr. George S. Mitchell
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
Room 432
63 Auburn Avenue, N.E.
Atlanta 3, Ga.

GEB

August 19, 1946

Mr. Clyde Erwin
Superintendent of Public Instruction
Raleigh, North Carolina

Dear Clyde:

I have had the attached letter from the General Education Board.

That's all I know.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

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FLORA M. RHIND, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

August 15, 1946

My dear Mr. Mitchell:

May I acknowledge receipt of your letter of August 12th with which you enclose summary of interviews and letter from Superintendent Erwin relating to a study of vocational and educational training for Negro veterans to be made by a sub-committee named by the Southern Council of Chief State School Officers. It is noted that the General Education Board is requested to provide approximately $4,000 for this purpose.

Mr. Davis is at present on vacation and is not expected to return until after Labor Day. I shall, however, bring your request to his attention as soon as he returns.

Yours sincerely,

Dorothy A. Newlett

Acting Secretary to Mr. Davis

Mr. George S. Mitchell
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
Room 432
63 Auburn Avenue, N.E.
Atlanta 3, Ga.

928

State of North Carolina

Superintendent of Public Instruction

CLYDE A. ERWIN
SUPERINTENDENT

Raleigh

August 26, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Southern Regional Council
63 Auburn Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear George:

I wish to acknowledge your letter of August 19 enclosing copy of a letter which you had received from Mr. Davis' office. I was in New York a few days ago and also missed him. I suppose there is nothing that can be done until he shows up, but I hope very much that he will look with favor upon your application. In my judgment, a great deal of good can be accomplished by the study which you have proposed and it was my intention to endorse it strongly if I had been able to see Mr. Davis personally.

With best wishes and kindest personal regards, I am

Very truly yours,

Clyde A. Erwin

Clyde A. Erwin
State Superintendent Public Instruction

8 e 13

September 11, 1946

Mr. Jackson Davis
General Education Board
49 West 49th Street
New York 20, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Davis:

I appreciate the careful consideration that you have given to the proposal for a quick look at Negro vocational education.

It still seems to me quite important for the main facts to be collected and for the whole matter to be laid officially before the November meeting.

I have talked by phone with Mr. Clyde Erwin just now. We would both of us exercise ourselves to find the man who could do the job if the funds were available.

Of course with less time, it would take less money.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

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FRED McCUISTION, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
FLORA M. RHIND, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

September 9, 1946

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

Your letter of August twelfth came during my absence. I have read it and the memorandum with great personal interest. Our officers have been scattered, and it has been impossible to take the quick action that would be required if the proposal were approved. It now seems so late, and the question arises whether another person would be immediately available. Also could this other person do any more than you and the state officials assigned to this work have been able to do?

You have yourself rendered a very important service by discussing the situation with the persons in charge of the program and raising the questions about the effectiveness of work for Negro veterans. I regret that we cannot act immediately, and this factor throws doubt on whether it would be practicable for us to approve your proposal.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

Jackson Davis

Mr. George S. Mitchell
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
Room 432
63 Auburn Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

is

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FRED McCUISTION, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
FLORA M. RHIND, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

September 13, 1946

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

In Mr. Davis' absence from the office on a field trip, may I thank you for your letter of September 11th regarding the proposed study of vocational and educational training for Negro veterans.

Mr. Davis will return to New York next week, and your letter will be brought to his attention as soon as possible.

Sincerely yours,

Irene Schaffer

Secretary to Mr. Davis

Mr. George S. Mitchell
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
Room 432
63 Auburn Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
RALEIGH

COPY

September 16, 1946

Dr. Jackson Davis
General Education Board
49 West 49th. Street
New York 20, New York

Dear Dr. Davis:

I have just talked with Dr. Mitchell over the telephone and have learned of your action with reference to the proposal for a quick study of veterans education in the South as it affects the Negro. I am still of the opinion that this study would be more than worth-while and that it would have a direct bearing upon legislation along this line in southern Legislatures which meet in January. Practically all of the Legislatures in the southern states will hold sessions during January and in many instances legislative action could be sought which would help to strengthen the program as it relates to Negroes. I believe it would be possible for us to find a good man to make the study and that we would be able to secure the hearty cooperation of our southern superintendents. I respectfully request that you give every possible consideration to the project as submitted by Dr. Mitchell.

With best wishes and kindest personal regards, I am

Very truly yours,

Clyde A. Erwin
State Superintendent Public Instruction

September 25, 1946

Mr. W. A. Schiffley
Director of Veterans Education
State Department of Education
Columbia, South Carolina

Dear Mr. Schiffley:

You will remember your kindness in giving me time for an interview on July 25th about trade schools for veterans.

I duly laid the proposal for a quick study of this kind before the General Education Board.

Mr. Davis I think was much interested in the proposal, but they have not thought it wise to put up the funds for the travel and inquiry involved.

I continue to be interested in the idea, as does Superintendent Erwin of North Carolina, and I will collect what information I can within the next few weeks with the view to making it available to Mr. Erwin for any possible use by the Council of Chief State School Officers at its autumn meeting.

I hope to visit you again for further conference on the matter in the near future.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

September 25, 1946

Mr. E. D. Norton
U. S. Office of Education
Federal Security Agency
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Norton:

You will remember your kindness in giving me time for an interview on July 30th about trade schools for veterans.

I duly laid the proposal for a quick study of this kind before the General Education Board.

Mr. Davis I think was much interested in the proposal, but they have not thought it wise to put up the funds for the travel and inquiry involved.

I continue to be interested in the idea, as does Superintendent Erwin of North Carolina, and Il will collect what information I can within the next few weeks with the view to making it available to Mr. Erwin for any possible use by the Council of Chief State School Officers at its autumn meeting.

I hope to visit you again for further conference on the matter in the near future.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

September 25, 1946

Mr. T. G. Pullen
Education Department
Lexington Building
Baltimore, Maryland

Dear Mr. Pullen:

You will remember your kindness in giving me time for an interview on July 31st about trade schools for veterans.

I duly laid the proposal for a quick study of this kind before the General Education Board.

Mr. Davis I think was much interested in the proposal, but they have not thought it wise to put up the funds for the travel and inquiry involved.

I continue to be interested in the idea, as does Superintendent Erwin of North Carolina, and I will collect what information I can within the next few weeks with the view to making it available to Mr. Erwin for any possible use by the Council of Chief State School Officers at its autumn meeting.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

September 25, 1946

Mr. Jackson Davis
General Education Board
49 West 49th Street
New York 20, New York

Dear Mr. Davis:

Thank you for your letter of September 20th. I appreciate the care with which you went into the proposal.

While I would greatly prefer to see further inquiry on the matter done by someone already in the school systems, I will, in agreement with Clyde Erwin, do what I can modestly to collect the facts and lay them before Mr. Erwin for any use he may make of them in connection with the next meeting of the southern school superintendents.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

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FRED McCUISTION, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
FLORA M. RHIND, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

September 20, 1946

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

I have discussed your letter of September 11th with my associates. I also have a letter from Mr. Clyde Erwin of North Carolina, and I have subsequently talked with him.

Our difficulties are twofold: (1) The time is very short, and it is extremely doubtful whether you could get the type of man that you would require to undertake such a task immediately. (2) The officers of the General Education Board feel strongly that this is a field which is the obvious obligation of the Federal and State Governments. Agencies have been set up by these governments to deal with the matter and, if we were to enter the field, it would seem to imply that we might be willing to entertain proposals for further assistance which would be misleading.

There is in every state some one person, or a committee, that could collect the data needed or at least give a fair picture of the need and what is being done. If this could be assembled and you could have an opportunity to see it and discuss it with the state superintendents, it seems to me that you would in that way accomplish the major purpose you have in mind.

We are very reluctant to decline the request, but I must report to you that it does not seem practicable for us to provide the sum you have requested.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

Jackson Davis

Mr. George S. Mitchell
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

is

September 25, 1946

Mr. Clyde Erwin
Superintendent of Public Instruction
Raleigh, North Carolina

Dear Clyde:

Here is a copy of Mr. Davis' letter of September 20th, plus a copy of my reply, plus letters I have written to Schiffley, Norton, and Pullen.

I will put as much time as I can in the next six or eight weeks on getting the facts together, and then lay my material in your hands for your decision as to what, if any, use should be made of it.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

September 25, 1946

Mr. Edwin R. Embree
Julius Rosenwald Fund
4901
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Mr. Embree:

Here is the background correspondence of my two telephone calls to you this morning.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

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FLORA M. RHIND, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

September 27, 1946

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

I appreciate your letter of the twenty-fifth. I really believe that you, with the cooperation of the persons in the various states, can give Mr. Clyde Erwin enough information to enable him to lay the situation before the southern school superintendents.

With best wishes,

Cordially yours,

Jackson Davis

Mr. George S. Mitchell
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

is

State of North Carolina

Superintendent of Public Instruction

Raleigh

CLYDE A. ERWIN
SUPERINTENDENT

September 30, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear George:

I wish to acknowledge your letter of September 25 and the enclosed copies of letters to Messrs. Pullen, Norton, Schiffley, and Jackson Davis. As I indicated to you over the telephone, if you will go ahead and get the material together we shall use it as a basis for discussion at our Southern Conference meeting when it is held. I shall expect you to be present at that meeting and to lead the discussion on the materials which you present at that time.

With best wishes and kindest personal regards, I am

Very truly yours,

Clyde A. Erwin

Clyde A. Erwin
State Superintendent Public Instruction

JB

October 21, 1946

Mr. Jackson Davis
General Education Board
49 West 49th Street
New York 20, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Davis:

Possibly you have not seen the enclosed review of your "Africa Advancing".

If the review has reached you, here is another copy.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

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FRED McCUISTION, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
FLORA M. RHIND, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

October 28, 1946

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

It was very thoughtful of you to send me your copy of the Statesman and the Nation with Mr. McMillan's review of our African report. I had seen a copy, but I did not have one. I am very grateful to you for it.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

Jackson Davis

Mr. George S. Mitchell
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

is

8813

November 7, 1946

Mr. Clyde Erwin
Superintendent of Public Instruction
Raleigh, North Carolina

Dear Clyde:

I have made only slow progress toward a report on vocational schools. I did put on a few weeks ago Mr. Mulholland who has begun to travel around.

Can you tell me when the meeting of the Southern chiefs will be?

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

GEB

November 18, 1946

Mr. Clyde A. Erwin
State Superintendent Public Instruction
Raleigh, North Carolina

Dear Clyde:

Many thanks for your letter of November 13.

I will be present on December 15 and shall be prepared to talk that evening about vocational training for veterans.

Let me know ahead of time what hotel, etc.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

State of North Carolina

Superintendent of Public Instruction

Raleigh

CLYDE A. ERWIN
SUPERINTENDENT

November 13, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear George:

I have worked out with the General Education Board plans for holding our conference at Gulfport, Mississippi on December 15, 16, and 17.

On the evening of December 15, I should like to have you be prepared to deliver an address and lead a short discussion on the problems of vocational training for veterans. I think a discussion of this question will undoubtedly result in stimulating interest and probably in securing additional legislation where necessary for relief. This meeting will be held in advance of legislative sessions which will convene in most of the southern states in January, and in my judgment the opportunity is most timely. I talked with Fred McCuistion about having you lead this discussion and he was very much in favor of it.

With best wishes and kindest personal regards, I am

Very truly yours,

Clyde A. Erwin

Clyde A. Erwin
State Superintendent Public Instruction

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W. W. BRIERLEY, SECRETARY

FRED McCUISTION, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
FLORA M. RHIND, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

November 26, 1946

To Members of the Conference on Negro Education

In accordance with the letter you have received from Mr. Davis, I am enclosing a program for the Conference of State Superintendents and State Agents to be held at the Edgewater Gulf Hotel, Edgewater Park, Mississippi, beginning Sunday evening, December 15, and closing at noon on Tuesday the 17th.

A hotel reservation has been made for you; however, it may be necessary for you to share a room with some other member of the Conference.

The program is based primarily on suggestions by members of the Conference and may be modified in accordance with the wishes of the group. It is hoped you will find time to study it and that you will come to the Conference prepared to take an active part in the discussions.

Sincerely,
Fred McCuistion

FMc:cn
ENC

9EB

December 2, 1946

Mr. Fred McCuistion
General Education Board
49 West 49th Street
New York 20, New York

Dear Mr. McCuistion:

Many thanks for your letter of November 26 about the meeting at Edgewater Park. I will arrive on the morning of the 15th and shall be there that day and the 16th and possibly some of the 17th.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

GEB

December 2, 1946

Mr. Jackson Davis
General Education Board
49 West 49th Street
New York 20, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Davis:

I greatly appreciate the invitation in your letter of November 29 for the meeting at Edgewater Park, December 15-17.

I will be there certainly for the 15th and 16th and possibly for part of the 17th.

Mr. Erwin has asked me to take part in a discussion on December 16 about trade training opportunities for Negro veterans.

I enclose a just completed survey on the general situation in Louisiana.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

GENERAL EDUCATION BOARD
FOUNDED BY JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER 1902
(INCORPORATED 1903)
49 WEST 49th STREET, NEW YORK 20

RAYMOND B. FOSDICK, PRESIDENT
JACKSON DAVIS, VICE PRESIDENT AND DIRECTOR
W. W. BRIERLEY, SECRETARY

FRED McCUISTION, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
FLORA M. RHIND, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

November 29, 1946

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

You will recall our discussions last summer with Mr. Erwin regarding policies of the State Departments of Education with reference to Negro veterans. We are having a meeting of the State Superintendents of Education and the State Agents of Negro Schools at the Edgewater Gulf Hotel, Edgewater Park, Mississippi, December 15th-17th. We would be pleased to have you with us for the whole conference, but if you are pressed for time Monday, December 16th, would be the best day. You will note the program for that day deals particularly with Negro education. I hope you will be able to join us.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

Jackson Davis

Mr. George Mitchell
Southern Regional Council
63 Auburn Avenue, N.E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

is

Enclosure

CONFERENCE OF STATE SUPERINTENDENTS AND STATE AGENTS OF NEGRO SCHOOLS
Edgewater Gulf Hotel, Edgewater Park, Mississippi

Suggested Program

Sunday, December 15, 7 to 9 p.m., Clyde A. Erwin presiding

Introductions
Welcome by J. M. Tubb

I. OVERVIEW OF EDUCATION IN THE SOUTH:
1. Some Problems and Trends in Education - T. G. Pullen, Jr.
2. Foundation Policies and Programs:
   a. Carnegie Corporation - R. M. Lester
   b. Kellogg Foundation - E. W. Morris
   c. Julius Rosenwald Fund - W. W. Alexander
   d. Southern Education Foundation - Arthur D. Wright
   e. General Education Board - Jackson Davis
3. Announcements

Monday, December 16, 9 to 12 a.m., J. F. Williams presiding

II. HIGHLIGHTS OF STATE PROJECTS IN NEGRO EDUCATION SINCE LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE IN 1944:
Each state will have ten minutes to report on one or more significant developments during the past two years. (Where there are two agents, the time may be shared.)

2 to 4 p.m.

III. MAJOR PROBLEMS IN NEGRO EDUCATION:
Separate conferences will be held by the State Superintendents and the State Agents, each group to choose a chairman and secretary, and to prepare a summary of conclusions to be presented at the evening session. Problems which have been suggested include:
   a. Graduate instruction; junior college development
   b. Programs in race relations
   c. Jeanes work and supervision of rural schools
   d. Distribution of school funds
   e. School buildings and facilities
   f. Needed legislation

7 to 9 p.m., J. E. Coxe presiding

IV. REPORT ON AFTERNOON SESSIONS

Tuesday, December 17, 9 to 12 a.m.

V. NEXT STEPS IN EDUCATION IN THE SOUTH:
1. Panel discussion led by A. R. Meadows.
   The panel will include all Superintendents and State Agents who have assumed office since August 1944.
2. General discussion

GEB

GENERAL EDUCATION BOARD

FOUNDED BY JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER 1902
(INCORPORATED 1903)

49 WEST 49th STREET, NEW YORK 20

RAYMOND B. FOSDICK, PRESIDENT
JACKSON DAVIS, VICE PRESIDENT AND DIRECTOR
W. W. BRIERLEY, SECRETARY

FRED McCUISTION, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
FLORA M. RHIND, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

December 10, 1946

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

Thank you for your letter of the second. I am pleased that you are planning to be with us at Edgewater Park and that Mr. Erwin has asked you to take part in the discussion about trade training opportunities for Negro veterans.

Thank you for the little bulletin describing services in Louisiana.

Looking forward to the pleasure of seeing you, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Jackson Davis

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Avenue, N.E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

GEB

December 19, 1946

Mr. Clyde Erwin
Superintendent of Schools
Raleigh, North Carolina

Dear Clyde:

It was extremely kind of you to make the arrangements that gave me the opportunity to talk to the meeting at Gulfport. I had a nice time, and I feel really greatly helped by the acquaintance made with that interesting and effective group.

It was a special pleasure to see something of your and of Mr. Newbold.

If you survive as one of the officers, perhaps it would be possible for you to have an official copy of the resolution about vocational schools sent to me.

I made a copy but I would like my files to have a sure-enough one.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

GEB

December 19, 1946

Mr. Jackson Davis
General Education Board
49 West 49th Street
New York 20, New York

Dear Mr. Davis:

I am truly grateful for the opportunity to meet with the group at Edgewater. I thought the meeting furnished a remarkably good sounding into the temper of the South today.

Also I was delighted to make the acquaintance of the men who were present.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

GENERAL EDUCATION BOARD
FOUNDED BY JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER 1902
(INCORPORATED 1903)
49 WEST 49th STREET, NEW YORK 20

RAYMOND B. FOSDICK, PRESIDENT
JACKSON DAVIS, VICE PRESIDENT AND DIRECTOR
W. W. BRIERLEY, SECRETARY

FRED McCUISTION, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
FLORA M. RHIND, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

December 23, 1946

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

Thank you for your note of the nineteenth. You rendered us a real service at Edgewater Park, and we appreciated your coming and leading this discussion.

With best wishes of the season,

Sincerely yours,

Jackson Davis

Mr. George S. Mitchell
Southern Regional Council
53 Auburn Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

is

Camp Gruber, Okla.,
Mar 26, 1942.

Dear Dr. Mitchell;

Just a few lines to let you know that I'm fine at the present and here in Okla. And hoping these few lines find you the same.

Left Camp Lee about three weeks ago, landed in Texas. Didn't stay over there long though, just a week. From there I landed out here in Oklahoma and I must say that its a swell place. Haven't been around much though. But what

what I have seen of the place doesn't seem to be bad.

Camp Gruber is located about 120 miles out of Muskogee and there is quite a few Cherokee Indians scattered around. Haven't had the pleasure of meeting very many yet but think I will be making it my business to do so.

Still thinks of Columbus and the good times I've had up there and hope to return my thanks around again sometime if I get out of this thing with two good

feet, and I think I will.

Hears from mother very often and everything down in Old Robeson County, N.C is just fine. Drop her a line now and then, I'm quite sure she will enjoy hearing from you.

Tomorrow is Thanksgiving and I guess I'll be working all day, but hopes you will be fine.

Guess I had better close now wishing you and the family the best of luck,

A friend,

Abner

xxxxxxxxxx
Cincinnati, Ohio

January 15, 1943

Mrs. Ruth M. Bronson
Office of Indian Affairs
Department of Interior
Merchandise Mart Bldg.
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Mrs. Bronson:

Do you suppose you would have time to check over Ola Lee's ~~financiar~~arrangements and drop her a line as to how they are coming?

I mistrust me these 250 Navy boys.

Cordially,

George S. Mitchell

Personal - Stamped

xxxxxxxxx
Cincinnati, Ohio

January 19, 1943

Mrs. Ruth M. Bronson
Office of Indian Affairs
U. S. Dept. of Interior
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Mrs. Bronson:

I received the attached letter from Lillian A. Windham of the Board of National Missions. You will note that she says she is sending Murray State a check for $75 for the second installment of their scholarship for Ola Lee.

Our records indicate that the Board of National Missions was to put up $75 for the full school year and we have a letter from Miss Gladfelter dated Sept. 4, 1942, copy of which was sent you, saying that their first installment of $37.50 was being mailed in time to reach the College by September 21.

Miss Windham's attention should be called to this matter, which is apparently an error, as quickly as possible before any of the extra money is used. Since you have been dealing with the Board on its contribution, I am assuming that you will wish to handle this.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

13

Jan 11 1943

Lillian A. Windham
Board of National Missions of the
Presbyterian Church in the USA
156 Fifth Avenue
NYC

As you are interested in Ola Lee Jacobs I know you will be glad to hear that she is enjoying her work at Murray State Teachers College and that she is doing very well there.

Again we are sending to the Treasurer of Murray State Teachers College a check for $75, which is the second payment on the scholarship granted to her for 1942-43 by the Board of National Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the USA.

I shall write to Mrs. Bronson of the Office of Indian Affairs too, as I know that she is also interested in Ola Lee Jacobs.

Very sincerely yours,

xxxxxxxxx

Cincinnati, Ohio

January 22, 1943

Mr. L. A. Roy
Assistant Secretary
Phelps-Stokes Fund
101 Park Avenue
New York City

Dear Mr. Roy:

I am grateful for your notice of January 17 that the Fund agreed to make available again for this college year the sum of $99.75 for aid to Miss Ola Lee Jacobs, a Pembroke Indian, at Murray State Teachers College, Murray, Kentucky, and that payment will be made about February 1.

I have not yet been down to Murray to see Miss Jacobs but have heard from her several times and I believe she is doing better than she did last year.

I have notified the College that the sum will probably be paid about February 1.

The check should be made to the Treasurer, Murray State Teachers College, for Miss Ola Lee Jacobs and mailed directly to the Treasurer of Murray State Teachers College, Murray, Kentucky.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell
Assistant Administrator

Personal - Stamped

xxxxxxxxx

Cincinnati, Ohio

January 22, 1943

Mrs. Ruth M. Bronson
Office of Indian Affairs
U. S. Department of Interior
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Mrs. Bronson:

I enclose a notice of January 17 from the Phelps-Stokes Fund and the original signed copy of my reply to that notice.

I should be grateful for your doing three things:

1. Reading my reply and deciding whether it is a proper one and if so, dispatch it. If not a proper reply, will you prepare one you think suitable, destroy mine, and send yours.

2. Notify the proper officials at Murray State Teachers College that they may expect that the Phelps-Stokes Fund will send its check on or about February 1.

3. Wrote Ola Lee a note and tell her that this money is expected.

I do intend to get down to Murray sometime soon and check up on our protegee.

Continuing thanks for all your kindnesses in our joint enterprise.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell
Assistant Administrator

Attachments - 2

Personal - Stamped

Scholarships

RMB

Chicago, Ill. JAN 25 1943

Dr. Thomas Jesse Jones,
Phelps Stokes Fund,
101 Park Avenue,
New York, New York.

My dear Dr. Jones:

This is to call your attention to your letter of September 8, 1942, wherein you indicated that the Phelps Stokes Fund would be willing to contribute $99.75 for the college expenses of Ola Lee Jacobs to attend Murray State Teachers College, Murray, Kentucky.

It was my understanding these funds would be available for Miss Jacob's use on or about December 1. A recent letter from her indicates that they have not yet been received. Will it be convenient for your organization to send this check in the near future to R. E. Broach, Business Manager, Murray State Teachers College, specifying that the funds are to be used for Miss Jacobs' college expenses?

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd) RUTH M. BRONSON

Ruth M. Bronson,
Associate Guidance Officer.

cc: Miss Ola Lee Jacobs
Mr. R. E. Broach
Dr. George S. Mitchell

RMB:ces
1-23-43

Scholarships

RMB

9/K

Chicago, Ill.

Board of National Missions of the
Presbyterian Church in the United States of America,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York, New York.

JAN 25 1943

Attention: Lillian A. Windham

My dear Miss Windham:

Dr. Mitchell of the Farm Security Administration has forwarded to me your letter of January 11, informing him that you are sending $75 to the Murray State Teachers College, Murray, Kentucky, to apply on the college expenses of Ola Lee Jacobs. This letter is simply to call your attention to the fact that $75 was the total amount your board pledged for Ola Lee's expenses for the entire year, and $37.50 has already been sent for Ola Lee's use last September 1; therefore, only $37.50 is actually due from your organization for the second half of the year.

If you have no other obligation for the $75 you have mailed to Murray State Teacher College on January 11, it can, of course, be used by Miss Jacobs to advantage, in case you prefer to have the funds left there for that purpose. If you need the extra $37.50 for some other student, however, I suggest that you write at once to Mr. R. E. Broach, Business Manager, Murray State Teachers College, Murray, Kentucky, explaining the error to him and asking for a refund of half the $75.00 you have recently sent. A copy of this letter is going to Mr. Broach so that he will understand the situation.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd) RUTH M. BRONSON

Ruth M. Bronson,
Associate Guidance Officer.

cc: Mr. R. E. Broach
Dr. Geo. S. Mitchell

RMB:des
1-23-43

Board of National Missions
of the Presbyterian Church in the
United States of America
156 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y.

January 27, 1943

My dear Mrs. Bronson:

In Miss Windham's absence I am acknowledging your letter to her of January 25 calling our attention to the fact that Miss Windham's letter to Dr. Mitchell in regard to the second half of the scholarship for Ola Lee Jacobs mentioned $75 as the amount which was sent to the Murray State Teachers College. I have just checked in our Treasury to find that our check was actually for $37.50, in other words for the second half of the total scholarship of $75, which we promised for the year.

I am writing at once to Mr. Broach at the college to explain the slip-up and I am also sending a copy of this letter to Dr. Mitchell.

I was sorry to be so completely tied up when you were in town a couple of weeks ago. I suspect, though, that you understand how peak periods do develop sometimes when literally every moment is filled. As I told Dr. Dawber's office I shall be glad to try to send you information about this Unit's work in writing, if you will give me some idea of just what you want.

Very sincerely yours,

Katharine E. Gladfelter
Assistant Secretary, Unit of
Educational and Medical Work

Mrs. Ruth M. Bronson
Department of the Interior
Office of Indian Affairs
Chicago, Illinois

KEG:eff

REFER IN REPLY TO THE FOLLOWING

Scholarships

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
CHICAGO

Dr. George S. Mitchell,
Assistant Administrator,
United States Department of Agriculture,
Cincinnati, Ohio.

JAN 29 1943

My dear Dr. Mitchell:

Your letter of January 22, enclosing your reply to the Phelps Stokes Fund reached my Office on Monday morning just after I had already mailed on Saturday a letter to Dr. Jones. A copy of my letter went to you, but I immediately put your letter to Mr. L. A. Roy in the mail so that matter ought to be taken care of now. I am today writing officers at Murray State Teachers College that the Phelps Stokes money will be forthcoming and shall also send Ora Lee a note.

Sincerely yours,

Ruth M. Bronson

Ruth M. Bronson,
Associate Guidance Officer.

Scholarships

Mr. R. E. Broach,
Business Manager,
Murray State Teachers College,
Murray, Kentucky.

CHICAGO

FEB 3 1943

My dear Mr. Broach:

We have received notice from the Phelps Stokes Fund that their contribution of $99.75 for Ola Lee Jacobs will be forwarded to you on or about February 1. I have also written to Hampton Institute, asking them to send the $49.50 they are to contribute at once. This will complete the scholarship assistance to be sent for Miss Jacobs this year. Any balance she might need for her school expenses is to be supplied from personal funds. I understand that the Board of National Missions has already sent their second payment which completes their obligation. Will you kindly ask the Dean for a report of Miss Jacobs' progress during the last two quarters?

We sincerely appreciate all the assistance you have given us with her affairs.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd) RUTH M. BRONSON

Ruth M. Bronson,
Associate Guidance Officer.

cc - Dr. Mitchell
RMB:dw 2/2/ 43

March 3, 1943

Miss Ola Lee Jacobs
Murray State College
Murray, Kentucky
Box 305

Dear Ola Lee:

It was very nice to hear from you. I have wanted to get to Murray but I cannot find anyway to do it. Maybe I will get there yet before June.

I think it would be a considerable mistake to try to get any of your incidental expenses from the Scholarship fund. [redacted] is left over at the end of this school year, I could ~~arrange them~~ to release it to you but it ought to be there as a reserve against possible over-run in your college bills.

If you want to write to the Foundations about how you are doing in College, that would be most welcome and an excellent thing to do, but I certainly would not write them with a money problem. Foundations are touchy things to deal with. We have been lucky so far, largely because we have only written once a year about the money end.

Incidentally, I think our chances for getting money next year and the year after are shaky. A lot would depend on how well your grades show up at the end of this school year.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

Personal - stamped

cc: Mrs. Bronson

xxxxxxxxxx
Cincinnati, Ohio

March 17, 1943

Pvt. Abner N. Locklear
Co "D" 64th OM. Bn.
Camp Gruber, Okla

Dear Abner:

Very nice indeed of your to write me. I am sorry that I did not answer your letter before.

I have not been down to Murray, Kentucky, to see Ola Lee but I hope to get there before June. She says she is doing better with her books but there is a big piece of the Navy right there on the Campus and I am sure Ola Lee is giving some time to it.

I am might sorry your mother has had so much trouble. I have written her a note.

I wrote Joe Brooks the other day and told him when the War was over he and I were going to have a fish fry on Lumber River one night, and a ham-cutting around St. Annes the second night, and a chicken fry at Prospect the third night. Then we would rest the next night at Philadelphus.

You are cordially invited.

Everybody at Ohio State expects you back there.

Sincerely,

Co. "D." 64th Inf. Bn.
Camp Gruber, Okla.
March 6, 1943.

Dear Dr. Mitchell,

Just a few lines to see if its possible to hear from you. I droped you a few lines a few months ago but I never did get an answer. By the way Dock if you get these few lines I answer mine I'll be sure to write a long letter the next time.

I was home last week on a furlough Dr. Mitchell and found Father in the hospital with a broken leg, that of course she was

getting along fine when I left. The only trouble is worry. As you know I have a Brother over in the African Campaign and she seems to be worrying about him a lot.

I was down to Pembroke State College and things down there was fine. I kind of believe we will have a recognized college there yet. I hope. Every body wanted to know about you and when. They heard from you and I was ashamed to say that I hadn't heard from you in a while. Please write and drop Mother a line if you can find him.

Always a friend,
Arnie Pollen

xxxxxxxxx

March 17, 1943

Mrs. Nettie Locklear
Pembroke, N. C.

Dear Mrs. Locklear:

Abner wrote me that you had a lot of trouble and had some time in the hospital. I am very sorry. He said you were getting along all right when he was home and I suppose by now you are up and around.

Abner talks cheerfully in his letter and I expect him back at Pembroke and back at Columbus, Ohio, to finish his course.

Goodness knows when I will get to Pembroke but I want to come to see you and hear about Abner when I can get there.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

xxxxxxxxx
Cincinnati, Ohio

May 7, 1943

Miss Frances M. Stallard
State Home Management Supervisor
McClelland Building
Lexington, Kentucky

Dear Miss Stallard:

Very many thanks for being nice enough to send me the information about Ola Lee Jacobs. It is cheering that she is doing so well. Your trouble has saved me a $35.00 trip, besides the time.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell
Assistant Administrator

FILE COPY

Personal - stamped

Cincinnati, Ohio

May 7, 1943

Mr. and Mrs. Anderson Jacobs
Route 1, Box 180
Pembroke, N. C.

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Jacobs:

I haven't found it possible this year to get to Murray State Teachers College to see Ola Lee but I hear she is doing right well.

Miss Frances M. Stallard, the woman who has charge of our FSA home management work in Kentucky sent me the attached letters. I'm sending them on to you because I thought you would like to see what some of the College people think about Ola Lee's work.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell
Assistant Administrator

EXPIRED

Personal - stamped

xxxxxxxxx
Cincinnati, Ohio

May 7, 1943

Dr. Thomas Jesse Jones
Phelps-Stokes Fund
101 Park Avenue
New York City

Dear Dr. Jones:

I haven't found it possible this year to get to Murray State Teachers College where Miss Ola Lee Jacobs is. Our Associate State Director in charge of home management in Kentucky, Miss Frances M. Stallard, was good enough to correspond on my behalf with friends at the College and Miss Stallard has sent me the attached two letters.

You will be glad I am sure, as I have been, to have these cheerful accounts of Miss Jacobs' work at Murray State.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell
Assistant Administrator

Personal - stamped

EXTRA COPY

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FARM SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

McClelland Building
Lexington, Kentucky
May 1, 1943

IN REPLY REFER TO

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Assistant Administrator
Farm Security Administration
Cincinnati, Ohio

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

You will find attached a letter from Ruth Sexton, Head of the Home Economics Department of Murray State Teachers College and also a copy of a letter the Dean of Women at Murray wrote to the Commission of Indian Affairs. These letters give information regarding Ola Lee Jacobs. I hope they will be useful to you.

It was a pleasure to have had an opportunity to visit with you on our visit to the office last Saturday.

Sincerely yours,

Frances M. Stallard

FRANCES M. STALLARD
State Home Management Supervisor

FMS:etc

Enc. 2

MURRAY STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE
MURRAY, KENTUCKY

JAMES H. RICHMOND
PRESIDENT

BOARD OF REGENTS
J. W. BROOKER, CHAIRMAN, FRANKFORT
CHARLES FERGUSON, VICE-CHAIRMAN, SMITHLAND
C. E. CRUME, CLINTON
CLAUDE WINSLOW, MAYFIELD
GEORGE HART, MURRAY

ALICE KEYS, SECRETARY-TREASURER, MURRAY

April 28, 1943

Miss Frances M. Stallard
State Home Management Supervisor
United States Department of Agriculture
Farm Security Administration
McClelland Building
Lexington, Kentucky

Dear Miss Stallard:

I am very glad to report that Miss Ola Lee Jacobs is doing satisfactory work in this institution. Her scholastic work is about average yet she has a splendid attitude and the ability to do things well with her hands. She has made many friends here and has adjusted herself quite well with the students and the faculty. As a matter of fact, I have been pleasantly surprised with the scholastic average she has here considering that she was a transfer student.

I am enclosing a copy of a letter our Dean of Women has written relative to Miss Jacobs, which I believe agrees with the points I have mentioned in this letter.

Sincerely yours,

Ruth Sexton

Ruth Sexton
Head of the Home Economics Department

RS:GU

APR 30 1943

February 16, 1943

COPY

Commission of Indian Affairs
Office of Indian Affairs
Department of the Interior
Chicago, Illinois

Gentlemen:

Mr. Broach, our business manager, has asked me to write you concerning Miss Ola Lee Jacobs.

Miss Jacobs' scholastic record for the fall quarter was satisfactory; she made eleven hours of C and four hours of B, which represents good work for someone transferring from another institution.

Her general attitude has been very fine; she has mingled well with the students and has made many friends. She dresses attractively and simply. She seems to be adjusting herself well.

She has been active in the Household Arts Club and in the activities at the girls' dormitory.

We are pleased to have her here on our campus and appreciate the help that you are giving her.

Sincerely,

Ella R. Weihing
Dean of Women

APR 30 1943

Board of National Missions
of the Presbyterian Church in the
United States of America
156 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y.

Gu.

May 11, 1943

My dear Mr. Mitchell:

We are always happy to receive information about our scholarship students, and particularly when it is so definitely on the bright side. These letters will also be very helpful to the Scholarship Committee when they consider the applications for grants for next year.

We are so glad that Ola Lee Jacobs has adjusted herself so well at Murray State Teachers, and appreciate your thoughtfulness in sending these fine letters on to us.

Very sincerely yours,

Lillian A. Windham

Lillian A. Windham
Assistant Secretary, Unit of
Educational and Medical Work

Mr. George S. Mitchell
Assistant Administrator
United States Department of Agriculture
Farm Security Administration
Cincinnati, Ohio

LAW:eff

HAMPTON INSTITUTE
HAMPTON, VIRGINIA

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

PC TO P15 - Action
DATE JTF
no file

May 13, 1943

Mr. George S. Mitchell
Assistant Administrator
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Farm Security Administration
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

This will acknowledge your letter of May 10th with enclosures concerning Miss Ola Lee Jacobs.

We are very happy that we have had a part in the encouragement of Miss Jacobs in her study.

PE. 3

Sincerely yours,

R. O'Hara Lanier

R. O'Hara Lanier
Acting President

ROL:maw

F991823MAY17'43

Chairman, RUFUS M. JONES

Telephone
RITTENHOUSE 9372

Executive Secretary, CLARENCE E. PICKETT

American Friends Service Committee
20 South Twelfth Street
Philadelphia Pennsylvania

CODE
PC TO DATE

May 15, 1943

Mr. George S. Mitchell
Farm Security Administration
Cincinnati, Ohio

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

Thanks for sending me the report about Ola Lee Jacobs's accomplishments this year. She evidently has done very well. I expect that her surroundings at the Murray State Teachers College are more in accordance with her capacities.

I hope she is going to find her way back to her home community as we had anticipated.

Very sincerely yours,

Clarence E. Pickett

Clarence E. Pickett
Executive Secretary

F 991937 MAY 19 '4

xxxxxxxxx

Cincinnati, Ohio

May 24, 1943

Miss Ola Lee Jacobs
Box 305
Murray State Teachers College
Murray, Kentucky

Dear Ola Lee:

The Presbyterian people wnat to know whether you intend to go back to college next year and whether you will need any help.

If you are going back and if you want the Presbyterians to help, please fill out this form that is hooked to this letter and send it back to me. You will have to send it right away because it has to be in the hands of the Presbyterian people before June 15.

I don't know whether the others will help or not. You remember that we originally asked all of the people who are helping to undertake to put up enough for two years for you, they having already financed two years for Lucille Oxendine. When we wrote them about you we always said that we were only asking for enough for two years but that we might of course ask for some more for you after you had had your two years. With the war and all, the Lord only knows what they are going to say. My guess would be that most of what you had this year would be available next year. Suppose that you got say $75 less from the foundations for next year than you had this year -- just because some one foundation may not want to keep on. Could you stay in college next year or not?

Please write me in a day or two if you can what you want to do.

Sincerely,

Personal - Stamped

George S. Mitchell
Assistant Administrator

My address in Cincinnati as you may remember is:
3246 Epworth Avenue

xxxxxxxxx

Cincinnati, Ohio

Mrs. Ruth M. Bronson
Associate Guidance Officer
U. S. Department of Interior
Office of Indian Affairs
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Mrs. Bronson:

I have written to Ola Lee to ask her about next year -- copy attached.

Shall let you know as soon as we hear.

Continued thanks for all your help.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell
Assistant Administrator

Attachment

Personal - Stamped

REFER IN REPLY TO THE FOLLOWING:
Scholarships

ADDRESS ONLY THE
COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
Chicago

PC TO J. W. Acton
DATE MAY 22 1943

Dr. George S. Mitchell,
Assistant Administrator,
Farm Security Administration,
Cincinnati, Ohio.

AD

My dear Dr. Mitchell:

The enclosed letter which has just come is self-explanatory. If you feel that Ola Lee Jacobs should be recommended for further scholarship assistance from the Presbyterian Board and the other foundations, will you forward this application form on to Ola Lee to be filled out and returned to the Board of National Missions? I take it the Presbyterian group will be willing to assist Ola Lee next year if we recommend it. I shall be glad to follow whatever recommendation you wish to make about giving my endorsement for continued assistance for her.

Sincerely yours,

Ruth M. Bronson

Ruth M. Bronson,
Associate Guidance Officer.

Enclosure 563

F992669 MAY24'43

1—038 a

ENCLOSURE 563

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

GPO

6—6945

Board of National Missions
of the Presbyterian Church in the
United States of America
156 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y.

May 18, 1943

My dear Mrs. Bronson:

We are beginning now to plan ahead for scholarship grants for the school year 1943-44, and have enclosed an application blank for Ola Lee Jacobs in case she will need help again next year. If she wishes to apply for scholarship assistance will you please ask her to return the enclosed blank to us by June 15. We will appreciate it if you will send us her grades for this semester as soon as you receive them from Murray State Teachers and also any comments about her participation in extra-curricular activities, as the Scholarship Committee likes to have such information on hand when it considers applications for grants.

We were very happy to receive from Mr. Mitchell last week copies of letters about Ola Lee Jacobs which indicate that her work this year has been very satisfactory and that she has been making a good adjustment at Murray State Teachers.

Very sincerely yours,

Lillian A. Windham

Lillian A. Windham
Assistant Secretary, Unit of
Educationaland Medical Work

Mrs. Ruth M. Bronson
Office of Indian Affairs
Merchandise Mart
Chicago, Illinois

LAW:eff
Encl.

xxxxxxxxx

Cincinnati, Ohio

May 24, 1943

Miss Ola Lee Jacobs
Box 305
Murray State Teachers College
Murray, Kentucky

Dear Ola Lee:

The Presbyterian people want to know whether you intend to go back to college next year and whether you will need any help.

If you are going back and if you want the Presbyterians to help, please fill out this form that is hooked to this letter and send it back to me. You will have to send it right away because it has to be in the hands of the Presbyterian people before June 15.

I don't know whether the others will help or not. You remember that we originally asked all of the people who are helping to undertake to put up enough for two years for you, they having already financed two years for Lucille Oxendine. When we wrote them about you we always said that we were only asking for enough for two years but that we might of course ask for some more for you after you had had your two years. With the war and all, the Lord only knows what they are going to say. My guess would be that most of what you had this year would be available next year. Suppose that you got say $75 less from the foundations for next year than you had this year -- just because some one foundation may not want to keep on. Could you stay in college next year or not?

Please write me in a day or two if you can what you want to do.

Sincerely,

Personal - Stamped

George S. Mitchell
Assistant Administrator

My address in Cincinnati as you may remember is:
3246 Epworth Avenue

ARMY AIR FORCES
DEL RIO, TEXAS

Del Rio, Texas.
May 29, 1943.
At Camp.

Dear "Pop",

How is the T.S.A. coming along in Ohio. Fine I hope. I see where the boys in Washington doesn't like the idea much. But on the other hand I see they are getting lots of opposition from the Local Boys. By that I mean the 15,000 employees of the T.S.A. All I can say is stick it out. I really hope it doesn't fall through. If it does it may mean that all I hoped for in the last few years have gone to.

By the way Doc, after spending a few months in Okla. I've almost decided that if I ever do finish school, which I hope to if I get out of this thing alive, I want to spend my last year at the University of Okla. I wonder if that possible. I wonder if the Scholarships is still good also. By the way Doc I never give up. I still have hopes.

I've been over in Mexico several times and I've been down here. I wonder if there is anything down over there you might like. If so let me know. Were you ever over Doc? Those Mexican Senoritas are really on the Ball. Write Soon.

Always pal
Kelly

Murray State College
Murray, Kentucky

June 1, 1943.

Dr. George S. Mitchell
3246 Epworth Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio.

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

Thanks for writing and sending the application blank. I filled it out the best I could and as you may notice that I left the III space blank as I didn't know how much to request.

I didn't think that I was going to be able to get any money at all for next year but if I can get just a small amount it will help out very much. Yes, I can remain in school if the fund is reduced $75.

Well, I have my last final tomorrow and so far they haven't been so very difficult. I am planning to be here the summer term which will begin June 7. Have been expecting you down - I'll be glad to have you down this summer.

Give my regards to the family.

Sincerely,
Ola Lee Jacobs

TRUSTEES
REV. ANSON PHELPS STOKES, *President.*
JACKSON DAVIS, *Vice-President.*
I. N. PHELPS STOKES, 2d, *Secretary.*
EDWIN K. MERRILL, *Treasurer.*
CHANCELLOR HARRY WOODBURN CHASE, *Ex Officio.*
RT. REV. WILLIAM T. MANNING, *Ex Officio.*
MRS. DYSON DUNCAN, MRS. JOHN DAVIS HATCH, JR.
THOMAS JESSE JONES, MALCOLM S. MACLEAN
GARRISON NORTON, FREDERICK D. PATTERSON
EMORY ROSS, CHANNING H. TOBIAS
MISS HELEN PHELPS STOKES, *Honorary Trustee.*

PHELPS-STOKES FUND

101 PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS
THOMAS JESSE JONES, *Educational Director.*
L. A. ROY, *Assistant Secretary.*
COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN
Education: REV. ANSON PHELPS STOKES
Housing: MRS. JOHN DAVIS HATCH, JR.
TELEPHONE: AShland 4-8578 (New York).
CABLES: "Stokesfund," Newyork.
NEW ENGLAND ADDRESS
Lenox, Massachusetts.
EUROPEAN ADDRESS
Eaton Gate, Sloane Square, London, S.W.1.

June 1, 1943

Mr. George S. Mitchell
Farm Security Administration
United States Department of Agriculture
Cincinnati, Ohio

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

Thank you for your letter of May 7th with the enclosures concerning the progress of Miss Ora Lee Jacobs at the Murray State Teachers College.

With cordial greetings,

Very sincerely,

TJJ
RLH

F994266 JUN 3'43

xxxxxxxxx
Cincinnati, Ohio

June 8, 1943

Mrs. Ruth M. Bronson
Associate Guidance Officer
Office of Indian Affairs
U. S. Dept. of Interior
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Mrs. Bronson:

Here is the application, filled in by Ola Lee, to the Board of National Missions for a scholarship grant for next year.

I think Ola Lee did not understand the part under "Budget - II". She apparently has shown only what she hopes to have the Board make available to her. Actually, under "e" she should have shown what she has been getting from the other contributing foundations.

It is suggested that the part II should read as follows:

"II. Estimate of income for year

a.	Balance from previous year	
b.	Gifts from parents, etc.	$ 88.25
c.	Earnings	none
d.	Assistance from the college	none
e.	Assistance from other sources	299.25
	(Hampton Institute $49.50	
	(Phelps-Stokes $99.75	
	(American Friends Serv. Comm. $150	
	Total	$387.50

"III. Amount requested from the Scholarship Fund, Board of National Missions 75.00

$462.50"

There is attached an extra copy of my letter to you in case you want to send it along to the Board.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell
Assistant Administrator

Personal - stamped

FILE COPY

Murray State College Box 305
Murray, Kentucky

July 8, 1943.

Dear Dr. Mitchell,

Well I am actually alive! Have been planning to write for sometime but got tied up in my school work and just put off writing.

Doing fine in school, considering the fact that this is my first time in Summer school. I really like Bacteriology and so far, I have learned how to swim and type - quite a bit of speed in typing.

How did the Scholarship question come out or have you heard? I certainly hope you will be able to get it for me, for it will mean a lot to my parents and myself. My brother is letting me have enough

Murray State College
Murray, Kentucky

money for this summer. By the way he is stationed in the ~~the~~ Army classification division in North Carolina and will probably be there for the duration unless he changes his mind and goes to Officers Training School.

Here's hoping that if you don't get down this Summer to see me, that you will come next year. Give my regards to your family.

Sincerely,
Ola Lee

James H. Richardson, Pres.

MURRAY STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE

OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR

MURRAY, KENTUCKY

Date July 27, 1943

Enclosed herewith is a transcript of the record of

Ola Lee Jacobs

This is sent at her request.

If we can serve you further in connection with this record please do not hesitate to communicate with us.

Yours very truly,

Cleo Gillis Hester, Registrar

Mrs. Cleo Gillis Hester

Form 135

MURRAY STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE

MURRAY, KY.

Jacobs (Last name) Ola Lee (Other names in full) of Pembroke, North Carolina (Home address)

attended this institution for 40½ weeks and was honorably dismissed is now enrolled., 19

Did applicant graduate? No Degree obtained Year degree taken

Entrance credit. Source of credit: (1) Pembroke (N.C.) High School Graduated 1940

(2) (3)

(An admission unit represents the equivalent of five recitations per week for thirty-six weeks in an accredited high school)

SUBJECTS	No. Units	Source	SUBJECTS	No. Units	Source	SUBJECTS	No. Units	Source	SUBJECTS	No. Units	Source
English	4		Algebra	2		Botany			Agriculture		
Ancient History			Pl. Geom.			Chemistry	1		Bookkeeping		
Med. & Mod. History			Trig. & Solid Geom.			Physics	1		Domestic Economy	2	
English History			Arithmetic	1		Physiography			Drawing		
American History	1		Latin			P. & H.			Manual Training		
~~Civics~~ Citizenship	1		French	2		Zoology			Stenography		
Sociology			Spanish			Biology	1		Other Subjects		
Political Economy			Education			General Science			Total	15+	

College Credits

Course Number	DESCRIPTIVE TITLE OF COURSE	Session	~~Sem.~~ Qr. Hrs.	Grade
	Pembroke State College for Indians			
Biol.111-13	General		12	CCD
Eng.131-33	Composition		6	BCC
Fr.231-33	Intermediate		9	CBA
Hist.101-03	General European		9	CCC
Math. 11	Remedial Mathematics		-	Pass
Math.111-12	College Algebra		6	BC
Math. 113	Plane Trigonometry		3	C
P.E.101-03	Sports for Elementary Grades		3	AAA
	Ohio State University			
H.Ec. 400	Intro. to Home Economics		2	C
H.Ec. 401	Textiles		3	D
H.Ec. 411	Foods		3	D
F.A. 431	Elem. Design		5	C
F.A. 437	Costume Design		3	C
Bot. 401	General		5	D
Bot. 402	General		-	E
Chem. 401	Elementary		3	D
Chem. 402	Elementary		5	D
Eng. 400	Review of Elem. of Composition		-	D
Eng. 410	Composition		3	C
P.E. 426	Required		1	C
P.E. 427	Required		1	A

Requirements for Graduation
A. B. & B. S. 128 semester hours.

Marking System—See Reverse Side.

The above is a correct record of Ola Lee Jacobs who would be allowed to re-enter here next session.

Date July 27, 1943

Cleo Gillis Hester
Signature of Registrar

(Preserve this transcript. A fee of one dollar charged for second copy.)

Form No. 130

MARKING SYSTEM

A. Exceptionally high quality, valued at 3 points for each credit.
B. Good, valued at 2 points for each credit.
C. Fair, valued at 1 point for each credit.
D. Unsatisfactory, indicates a deficiency and gives no points but gives credit for certification and graduation if with such credits the student's standing is 1 or more.
E. Failure, valued at 0 credits and 0 points.
I. Incomplete.
X. Absent from examination.

DEFINITION OF CREDIT

A credit represents one hour of recitation or lecture, or two hours of laboratory a week for one semester.

DEFINITION OF STANDING

The standing of a student is defined as a ratio of his total number of points to his total number of credits. When a semester's work is to be considered "standing" is understood to be the ratio of the number of points gained to the number of credits scheduled.

COMMENCEMENT HONORS

a. Students are graduated "With High Distinction" who attain a standing of 2.6 or higher for at least three years.
b. Students are graduated "With Distinction" who attain a standing of 2.4 to 2.6.
c. Students may receive "Honorable Mention" who attain a standing of 2.2 up to 2.4.
d. A student may receive the appropriate commencement honors who attains a standing of .2 greater than the above named for his last two years.

Sheet No. 2.

MURRAY STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE

RECORD OF Ola Lee Jacobs

Course Number	Descriptive Title of Course	Session	Qr. Hrs.	Grade
Hyg. 400	Required		-	E
	Murray State Teachers College			
Ed. 101	General Psychology	1st Qr.1942-43	4	C
H.Ec. 129	Personal Regimen	1st Qr.1942-43	3	C
H.Ec. 110	Elementary Clothing	1st Qr.1942-43	4	B
Hyg. 101	Personal Hygiene	1st Qr.1942-43	4	C
H.Ec. 203	Comsuner Education	2nd Qr.1942-43	2	C
H.Ec. 101	Meal Planning & Table Service	2nd Qr.1942-43	3	B
H.Ec. 218	Home Nursing & Health of Family	2nd Qr.1942-43	3	C
H.Ec. 204	Family Relationship	2nd Qr.1942-43	2	C
H.Ec. 200	Dressmaking	2nd Qr.1942-43	4	B
Soc. 214	Principles of Sociology	2nd Qr.1942-43	4	D
Chem. 205a	Elementary Organic - Lec.	3rd Qr.1942-43	4	C
Chem. 209	Elementary Organic - Lab. - Foods	3rd Qr.1942-43	3	C
Eng. 116	Victorian Literature	3rd Qr.1942-43	4	D
H.Ec. 102	Experimental Cookery	3rd Qr.1942-43	3	B
H.Ec. 219	Child Care & Development	3rd Qr.1942-43	3	C
Com. 101	Typing I	Summer 1943	3	C
P.E. W122	Beginning Swimming	Summer 1943	1	B
	Courses now scheduled			
Art 103b	Design (3 qr.hrs.)		-	-
Biol. 216	Bacteriology (6 " ")		-	-
Eng. 115	Romantic Lit. of England (4 " ")		-	-
	~~Transcript made for Dr. George S. Mitchell, Cincinnati, Ohio.~~			

Date July 26, 1943

Cleo Gillie Hester

Signature of Registrar

Form 131

August 7, 1943

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Jacobs:

I had a pleasant visit of a couple of hours two or three mornings ago with Ola Lee. I was able to stop off from a trip to Tennessee and go up to Murray State. I got there about seven o'clock in the morning and Ola Lee had just got the sleep rubbed out of her eyes well, but she was cheerful.

She had on a pretty yellow linen dress. Her friends told me that she has done a lot of sewing in the last few months and makes nearly all her own clothes. I believe she has plans for making something for Mrs. Jacobs when Ole Lee gets home in a couple of weeks.

I saw two or three of her teachers. They said she is doing pretty well. I wish she would study a little harder but she does study and nobody said that she did any unnecessary amount of hunting for amusement. I met her roommate who was a very nice girl and spoke very highly of Ola Lee, as also did the two ladies in charge of the dormitory where Ola Lee lives.

I have written to the foundations that have been putting up the money and asked them to try to find $300 for Ola Lee for this coming year beginning in September. That would mean that you and Ola Lee's brother would have to find the rest. I am not sure that the foundations will provide the money because they undertook only to find money for four years and Lucille Oxendine had two and Ole Lee has had two, so they may not come through with it but I hope they will.

We are getting along all right and like it well enough in Cincinnati. I don't know when I can get to Pembroke but when I do I will wish to come and see you and hear from you how Ola Lee is doing. She is a bright, attractive, girl able to stand on her own feet and she has a lot of friends. Also, she is learning home economics. Those are the things we wanted her to do.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

Personal - stamped

August 11, 1943

Dear Abner:

I have been a mighty long time answering your good letter which you wrote me at the end of May.

Farm Security pulled through. They cut out about one-third of our money and we have had to drop a lot of people but we are still in business and still getting folks to raise something for the soldiers, the civilians, and the people abroad to eat.

I have not heard much Pembroke news. I hear there is a plan to split Red Banks down into single farms. I went to Murray State College a couple of days ago and saw Ola Lee. She is fine; has her hair done upswept style and wearing very pretty dresses she makes herself. She gets marks about like yours; maybe one notch better. She expects to finish out there in August, 1944 and get her Degree. She is going home to Pembroke in a couple of weeks and stays there until September 25 when Murray State opens again.

Mrs. Mitchell and I and the two girls are getting along all right in Cincinnati. We live in a pretty solidly Republican neighborhood and my wife some time ago, when talking with one of the neighbors, said "I suppose there are not many other Democrats out here in Westwood." The neighbor lady said "I think you would find a few other Democrats but I am pretty sure there are no other New Dealers."

Please write me and tell me how you are and how you are getting along.

My guess is that when the War is over the Government will gladly provide scholarship money for completion of college education by ex-soldiers. So I confidently expect you to get your B.S. in Agriculture at Ohio State and then go and show everybody up and down the Lumber River how to farm right.

Cordially,

George S. Mitchell

Personal - stamped

xxxxxxxxx
Cincinnati, 14, Ohio

Aug. 13, 1943

Miss Lillian A. Windham
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York

Dear Miss Windham:

I had an opportunity to be at Murray State Teachers College for a couple of hours on August 4 and, by arrangement, most of the time was spent with Miss Ola Lee Jacobs, whom you will recall the Board has been assisting.

Miss Jacobs will in a couple of weeks have completed her second year of scholarship assistance. That completes four years of scholarship assistance from the Board for an Indian girl from Pembroke. (You will remember that our first selection, Miss Lucille Oxendine, withdrew at the end of her second year.)

In earlier correspondence it has been made clear that any request for scholarship assistance after her second year for Miss Jacobs would be subject to quite special consideration inasmuch as the Board was kind enough to put up funds in any case on a year-to-year basis for an Indian girl, but with no thought at the beginning of the enterprize that scholarship assistance would be required beyond four years.

Ola Lee likes it at Murray State. I met her roommate, an attractive Kentucky girl, and talked with Ola Lee's two dormitory house mothers and with two or three of her teachers. She is thought of as a quiet, attractive girl who complies fully with the College's regulations and she has a wide circle of good friends. She continues to have, and in expanding degree, ability to go under her own steam. She does not doubt her powers. Her personal bearing was in every way fine. Upswept hair-do, neat clothing. (They told me she had within the last year thoroughly learned sewing and now makes practically all her own clothes, and she will make a woolen suit for her mother when she gets home in a couple of weeks.) Her health is all right and I heard of no habits that would interfere with her getting through well.

She has stayed on for a summer session at Murray State, picking up extra credits. After going to Pembroke about August 20, she will return to Murray

State September 25 for her final year. It will take her until August, 1944, to finish but she and all whom I talked with thought it entirely to be expected that she would get her Degree in Home Economics in August, 1944.

She is not above average in her work. Her grades this last year at Murray State ran C's and B's; I believe one D. Abstract things like bacteriology and sociology are hard for her. The next year will give her a lot of practice courses and it will be a heavy schedule. She will during the year be taking physics and economics and four separate courses in home economics, such as clothing and foods, and she will live in the practice home economics house for three months and do practice teaching and take four education courses and also some chemistry. At no quarter though does it give her more than 18 hours work a week. She has been taking this summer quarter typing, swimming, bacteriology, art, and English literature.

Her financial circumstances are better than a year or two ago. A brother who is teaching school can help her some and her parents can help her some. They have 4 1/2 acres of tobacco which is worked by a renter and therefore a crop on only two acres or so of it will go to her parents. But the tobacco will probably sell for about 40 cents a pound and should bring in an income around $900.00. Truth to tell, I think she could be sent back to Murray State for her last year at the expense of her parents and brother, though it would be a very great sacrifice to her parents, and I suppose to her school-teaching brother, to put up all of the $600 or $700 that will be required.

Under these circumstances I should like to lay before the Board for decision whether the Board would wish to assist Miss Jacobs in this her final year to the extent of its customary proportion of a total sum of $300. This would be for the Board a contribution of $60.00. As you will note from your records, this is less than the amount requested in the questionnaire which Miss Jacobs submitted to you in June. It is felt, however, that she will be able to get by on the smaller amount.

If she gets through, and I am satisfied that on the studies end of it she will all right, she will be the only Indian girl of that group modernly trained in home economics. Of course, we take the chance as to whether she will go back and find a place with the Government to do her work with her own people, but she is a good bet to do that.

The last news of Abner Nash Locklear was from Texas where he was in the Army. I do not know whether he has as yet gone overseas or not.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell
Assistant Administrator

cc: H.S. Mitchell.

PHELPS-STOKES FUND — 101 PARK AVENUE — NEW YORK, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Mitchell: Aug. 20, 1943

Your letter of Aug. 13th, was received this morning and will be brought to Dr. Jones' attention upon his return to the city next week.

As a considerable number of things are awaiting his attention, his reply may be somewhat delayed, but you may be certain that the request for $80.00 toward Miss Ola Lee Jocobs expenses at Murray State College will be presented to our Trustees at their next meeting about the middle of November 1943.

Sincerely yours,

L. A. Roy.

L. A. Roy.

9K.

Board of National Missions
of the Presbyterian Church in the
United States of America
156 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y.

August 21, 1943

My dear Mr. Mitchell:

Your letter of August 13 to Miss Windham relative to the continuance of a scholarship for Miss Ola Lee Jacobs of Murray State Teachers College has come to the office in Miss Windham's absence on vacation for the month of August. We shall see that she has this immediately upon her return.

In the meantime I rather suspect that the Committee will approve your recommendation of a contribution of $60 toward Miss Jacobs' expenses for the coming year. Miss Windham upon her return will, however, give you a definite reply.

Very sincerely yours,

Edna R. Voss

Edna R. Voss, Secretary
Unit of Educational and
Medical Work

Mr. George S. Mitchell
Assistant Administrator
Farm Security Administration
U. S. Department of Agriculture
Cincinnati, Ohio
ERV:H

HAMPTON INSTITUTE
HAMPTON, VIRGINIA

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

August 23, 1943

Mr. George S. Mitchell
Assistant Administrator
United States Department of Agriculture
Farm Security Administration
Cincinnati, 14, Ohio

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

I have your letter in regard to Miss Ola Lee Jacobs at Murray State Teachers College.

Hampton Institute would be interested in making a grant of $40.00 to Miss Lee for the continuation of her work at Murray State next year.

Very truly yours,

R. O'Hara Lanier

R. O'Hara Lanier
Acting President

ROL/elp
Carbon copies to:
Mr. C. L. Reynolds
Mr. Don Davis

Board of National Missions
of the Presbyterian Church in the
United States of America
156 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y.

August 24, 1943

My dear Mr. Mitchell:

I wrote you on August 21 that Miss Windham was away on vacation and that your letter relative to Miss Ola Lee Jacobs would be held for her to see upon her return, when the Committee on Scholarships would consider your request that Miss Jacobs be allowed $60 toward expenses at Murray State Teachers College this coming year.

I now find that our assistant secretary in the Unit had had instruction from Miss Windham before she left for her vacation, to take up with the committee a scholarship for $75 for Miss Jacobs, if when her grades came in they were found to be satisfactory. They were, and the committee acted favorably on a grant for $75.

I am sorry that this was not cleared here in our office before I wrote you but I am sure Miss Jacobs will be able to make good use of the additional $15 and I am sure too that Miss Windham will appreciate your full report.

Very sincerely yours,

Edna R. Voss

Edna R. Voss, Secretary
Unit of Educational and
Medical Work

Mr. George S. Mitchell
Assistant Administrator
Farm Security Administration
U. S. Department of Agriculture
Cincinnati, Ohio

ERV:j

August 26, 1943

Miss Ola Lee Jacobs
Route 1, Box 180
Pembroke, N. C.

Dear Ola Lee:

I wrote the several foundations and asked them for a total of $300. We have heard favorably from three of them already. Two of them virtually promise their sums which amount to a total of $100; and a third leads me to believe they will put up their sum which is $80, so there is $180 already pretty certain. The remaining foundation, the American Friends Service Committee, I should rather expect will put up its money. If it does that will make the total of $300.

I hope you are enjoying your brief stay at home.

Please take the trouble to drop by the FSA office in Pembroke and see Mr. Green and give him my regards. Don't just go by and leave word if he is away -- make an appointment to see him and see him and tell him how you are getting along.

If you can get anybody with gasoline enough to drive you to Abner's house, I do wish you would go to see Mrs. Locklear and ask her about Abner. Then write me and tell me how he is getting along.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell
Assistant Administrator

August 27, 1943

Miss EdnaaR. Voss, Secretary
Unit of Educational and Medical Work
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Avenue, New York City

Dear Miss Voss:

It was very kind indeed of the Board to put up the $75 for Miss Ola Lee Jacobs at Murray State Teachers College for the coming year which you wrote me about on August 24. She (and I) will be most grateful for this especially generous allowance.

We have heard from Hampton Institute that we may expect the $40 from them and the Phelps-Stokes Fund has indicated that final decision from them will be made at the next meeting of their Board in November. I am quite hopeful therefore that the full $300, plus the welcome extra $15 from the Board of National Missions, will be available.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell
Assistant Administrator

Personal - stamped

cc: Mrs. Bronson

Chairman, RUFUS M. JONES

Telephone
RITTENHOUSE 9372

Executive Secretary, CLARENCE E. PICKETT

American Friends Service Committee

20 South Twelfth Street
Philadelphia 7 Pennsylvania

September 8, 1943

Mr. George S. Mitchell
Assistant Administrator
Farm Security Administration
Cincinnati 14, Ohio

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

In spite of the absence of one of the principals in the contract, I now have adequate confirmation of our willingness to contribute $120 during the coming year toward the expenses of Ola Lee Jacobs' schooling. Please let me know where I am to send the check.

Your report concerning the three people whom we had made some investment in is very interesting and we are especially interested in Ola Lee.

Very sincerely yours,

Clarence E. Pickett

Clarence E. Pickett
Executive Secretary

CEP:MY

September 13, 1943

Mr. Clarence E. Pickett
Executive Secretary
American Friends Service Committee
20 South Twelfth Street
Philadelphia 7, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Pickett:

It is mighty kind of the Committee to put up the $120 for Ola Lee Jacobs.

I feel confident that her career will merit the generous aid that the Committee has given. You know the Friends have carried the largest single share of this enterprise, straight through.

Everybody has undertaken to contribute now for this final year so she is sure of $300, plus an odd $15 that the Presbyterians let stand.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell
Assistant Administrator

Personal - stamped

Sept. 13, 1943

Miss Ola Lee Jacobs
Box 305
Murray State College
Murray, Kentucky

Dear Ola Lee:

We had a letter today from the Friends Service Committee undertaking to put up their $120. This is the last one that was out so you are now virtually sure of $315. (You remember that the Presbyterian Board had already put up $75 and they let it stand at that.)

I am asking Miss Bronson to write all the contributors about getting the money promptly over to Murray State College.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell
Assistant Administrator

Personal - stamped

Sept. 13, 1943

Mrs. Ruth M. Bronson
Office of Indian Affairs
U. S. Dept. of Interior
Merchandise Mart Bldg.
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Mrs. Bronson:

Here are copies of letters we received in reply to our requests for funds for Ola Lee during the coming school year.

You will note that all except Phelps-Stokes have actually committed the funds and desire instructions for forwarding the money to Murray State. Phelps-Stokes will consider the matter at their November meeting and I am fairly sure they will put up the money.

The sums undertaken by the foundations are as follows:

American Friends Service Committee	$120.00
Board of National Missions ($15 more than was requested)	75.00
Hampton Institute	40.00
Phelps-Stokes (No definite commitment yet made)	80.00
Total	$315.00

Since you have always dealt with the various foundations in the actual handling of the money, I'm sending the letters on to you so that you may notify them as to whom the money should be sent. School starts this year at Murray on September 25 and I am sure it will be a big help to Ola Lee if at least part of the money could be there by that time.

With usual and extra thanks,

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell
Assistant Administrator

Personal - stamped

Chairman, RUFUS M. JONES

Telephone
RITTENHOUSE 9372

Executive Secretary, CLARENCE E. PICKETT

American Friends Service Committee

20 South Twelfth Street

Philadelphia 7 Pennsylvania

September 23, 1943

Mr. George S. Mitchell
Farm Security Administration
Cincinnati, Ohio

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

The American Friends Service Committee will be glad to send the check for $120 for Ola Lee Jacobs. Could you inform us where the check should be sent?

Sincerely yours,

Masami B. Yoshida

(Mrs.) Masami B. Yoshida
Secretary to Mr. Pickett

Telephone: AShland 4-8578.
Cables: "Stokesfund," Newyork.

September 25, 1943

PHELPS-STOKES FUND
101 PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK 17, N.Y.

Mr. George S. Mitchell
Farm Security Administration
U. S. Department of Agriculture
Cincinnati 14, Ohio

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

Your letter of August 13th has been received. We are glad to know that Miss Ora Lee Jacobs is making satisfactory progress. We note that she is returning to Murray State College September 25th for her final year, and that she will probably receive her degree in Home Economics in August 1944. We note also your suggestion and request that the Phelps-Stokes Fund contribute $80 toward the sum required to complete her education. We shall be glad to recommend this to our Committee and hope that our Trustees, at their annual meeting about the middle of November, will approve the grant.

With cordial greetings and every good wish,

Very sincerely,

Thomas Jesse Jones

TJJ
RLH

Sept. 27, 1943

Mrs. Ruth M. Bronson
Office of Indian Affairs
U. S. Dept. of Interior
Merchandise Mart Bldg.
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Mrs. Bronson:

We have a letter from the American Friends Service Committee inquiring as to where they should send the money they are contributing to Ola Lee Jacobs. We also have a letter from Thomas Jesse Jones of the Phelps-Stokes Fund, copy of which is attached, so I think we can feel pretty sure of their contribution.

I suppose you have already written the several foundations as to where the money is to be sent. If not, since Ola Lee will be needing the money soon, if you could get the letters off it will help.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell
Assistant Administrator

COPY

Board of National Missions
of the Presbyterian Church in the
United States of America

156 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y.

FOR
Dr. George S. Mitchell
Assistant Administrator
Farm Security Administration
U. S. Department of Agriculture
Cincinnati, Ohio

October 14, 1943

My dear Miss Jacobs:

Mrs. Hester has just written us that you are now back at Murray State Teachers College and so I have sent to the Treasurer of Murray State Teachers College a check for $37.50 which is the first payment on the scholarship granted you by the Board for the current year.

We hope that later in the year you will find time to write us about your work and activities.

Very sincerely yours,

Lillian A. Windham
Assistant Secretary, Unit of
Educational and Medical Work

Miss Ola Lee Jacobs
Murray State Teachers College
Murray, Kentucky

LAW:ina

Somewhere in Southwest Pacific.
October 23, 1943.

Dear Dr. Mitchell,

It has been quite a little while since I received your welcome letter. Things have changed quite a bit since then also as you see. I'm just beginning to catch up with my letter writing.

Glad to learn the Z.S. pulled through, although money was cut quite a bit. By the way, was there any Pembroke farmer drafted? I always had an idea the Reef Banks should be split in some small farms. I know those guys.

It was nice hearing that you and the family was fine. It seems that West wood is quite Republican. I wouldn't be too surprised to hear that all of Ainy was

if its anything like Columbia. Yes old Columbia and those College days. Quite an experience.

There isn't much to say about the pearl dock. It is quite interesting though. There is quite a variety of tropical fruits such as: Bannas, coconuts, pineapple and an occasional orange tree here and there. I must say the Natives are rather amusing. Black and fuzzy and you probably would expect. I can say it rains occasionally.

I guess this is about all for this time dear as its getting a little dark. Expecting to hear from you soon, I remain

a friend
Ahern.

Ancy

FOR INDIAN FILE

A1

OCT 27 1943

Miss Ola Lee Jacobs
Box 305
Murray State Teachers College
Murray, Kentucky

Dear Ola Lee:

Many thanks for writing me. I am glad the money finally came through. I saw Mr. Clarance Pickett today, the head man in the Friends Service Committee, and thanked him for you and he said again that the person to thank is Mrs. Roosevelt.

I was glad to get the news of Mrs. Locklear and of Abner.

If you get home at Christmas time, do, please, go and see Mr. Green.

I am counting on you for at least straight B's and some A's and a graduation in glory in August 1944. When you are through I want you to know how to go to Brookstown and make the land around it smiling, fertile country with good homes and healthy people. Are you learning how to do that? If you are not, please pester your teachers until they contrive to teach you that.

If you will learn how to do that and then will go back to Robeson County determined to do it, you can be, by the time you are fifty, Robeson County's most distinguished and useful citizen in all the County's history.

It takes three things: knowledge, determination and endurance; especially at first in the hard, rebuffing early years. You are getting the knowledge. You can find the determination. The endurance will be the tough thing, but I think that you could summon it.

When I am eighty, if I am still kicking, I intend to go to Robeson County and when I stop at Oxendine's filling station and ask Mr. Oxendine's grandson who is most responsible for the fine fields, fine homes and fine folks I shall be seeing around me, I expect him to say, "You know, there was a woman who went from here to college in Kentucky. Her name was Ola Lee Jacobs. She married Loxendine Ocklear and she kept right on working at this Indian county until she and the rest of us got it straightened out."

Then they can bury me in peace next to the old boy who wouldn't let the Government put the road through his burying ground.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

George S. Mitchell

GSMitchell/fhp 10-27-43

cc: G. S. Mitchell
Joyce Kelly (Cincinnati)

cc: Mrs. R. M. Bronson
Office of Indian Affairs
Dept. of Interior, Chicago, Illinois

EXHIBIT COPY

October 9 1943
Murray, Kentucky

Dear Dr. Mitchell

Sorry I waited so long to write to you but due to a change in my program my work has been increased and I find very little "extra" time.

I am doing fine so far in school and all my subjects seem very interesting. This quarter I am taking English, Interior Decoration, Educational Psychology, Sociology, and my Methods course which is in Home Economics.

Was kind of worried about my money until Thursday of this week the cashier called me up and said "The Friends Service" had sent me $125. This certainly relieved me as I was about to have to ask my parents for the money, but the Business Office staff were going to wait one more week on the money. I want to thank you for getting the money for me and it certainly is appreciated, and this not only goes for me, but my parents as well. They were very glad you were able to obtain the amount of money you did for it really meant something for them.

Now for the bad news - I did'nt get to see Mr. Green while home. Before I received your letter I had thought about going to see him but somehow I never

did get around to seeing him. When I received your letter I immediately went to see him, but he wasn't in and wouldn't be in until the following Friday and I left home at 4 A.M. Friday, so I never did get to see him. However his Secretary said he would probably write to me. I did go to see Abner's mother and took mom and dad with me. We certainly enjoyed our visit very much, and Abner's mother was doing fine, and she really spoke highly of you. I think Abner is out in Calif. and he is also getting along fine, and his mother stated that after the war he is finishing his work at Ohio State.

Again I want to thank you for obtaining the money for me.

Sincerely,
Ola Lee Jacobs

Indiana

New Guinea
Dec 15, 1943.

Dear Mr. Mitchell,

I heard from home a few days ago and they were telling me about seeing you and you telling them that you never heard from me. I don't understand what's wrong. I wrote you when I was back in the States but evidently you didn't receive the letter. I'm sorry that I haven't written since I've been over here but I have been a very busy man for the last few months.

I'm having lots of fun over here Dick. I must say if I'd've had you wouldn't believe it but I get to town every now and then. Strange isn't it? Its true anyway though. Yes I'm doing quite a bit of work these days. I work about six and a half days now. I spend that other half day washing clothes. By the way, I wrote Mr. Mary Mark last

might but I was telling her that I wouldn't be surprised if I couldn't make somebody a real wife after the war is over. I've done everything since I've been in the army that's immorgable. I don't know it may help after I get back home though. One never can tell.

Yes Hock, the natives here are rather amusing and exciting. Something out of the ordinary. The way they live are really something. They eat anything. One of the trucks may run over a Kangaroo tonight, the natives come along and have him for dinner to-morrow noon. They throw him in a can, don't take the hair off or even inside out. I guess they like it though. They seem to.

Believe it or not but I've heard some of them speak Spanish. It seems strange doesn't it. Most of them can understand English quite well. They used to have missionary schools over here and I suppose that's where they learned to speak

Spanish. It's quite an experience being over here in a way. It's rather additional condition to say its an experience. At least there will be lots of things to tell after I get back to the states. I guess there is lots of guys that will though.

Guess you never hear from Ola Lee anymore do you Jack. I hoped he is fine but she never said if answer the letter. Guess she didn't get it. I hope she's getting along fine in school. Gee but I really miss being in school. That's just one of those things though. I want to try the University of Oklahoma if I go to anymore school. What do you think of the idea. I may change my mind though. I kind of doubt it for some reason though.

That's about all the news for this time Jack. So until I hear from you I wish you and the family a merry, merry Christmas.

A friend,

Abner.

January 2, 1944

Mr. H. C. Green
Pembroke, North Carolina

Dear H.C:

Do you know the correct name and address of that Chavis, I believe James Chavis, who was a close friend of Joe Brooks'?

I want to send him some information by agreement with Joe Brooks, but it is a little difficult to get Chavis' correct address out of Joe, when Joe is in the far Pacific.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

Board of National Missions
of the Presbyterian Church in the
United States of America
156 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y.

February 10, 1944

My dear Dr. Mitchell:

We are mailing today to the Treasurer of the Murray State Teachers College a check for $37.50 which is the second payment on the scholarship granted to Miss Ola Lee Jacobs by the Board of National Missions for the year 1943-'44.

We shall also write to Mrs. Bronson of the Office of Indian Affairs, as she, too, is interested in Miss Jacobs. We hope that Miss Jacobs is enjoying her work this year.

Very sincerely yours,

Lillian A. Windham

Lillian A. Windham
Assistant Secretary, Unit of
Educational and Medical Work

Dr. George S. Mitchell
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Farm Security Administration
Cincinnati, Ohio

February 10, 1944

Dear Dr. Mitchell,

I guess you thought that I had forgotten you but this quarter I have been terribly busy. You see I am doing my Student Teaching this quarter and it keeps me busy; however I love it and so far I am doing swell in it.

At last I got around to seeing Mr. Greene while I was home Xmas. He says that I should teach at least 1 2 years before working with the FSA. This sounds logical but the way things are at Pembroke I seriously doubt if I'll ever be out there. He only has one helper in the office and he said he was trying to get a Home Management Supervisor for at least 2 days per week, since the funds were so low he couldn't afford a full-time worker. Maybe in the next 2 years it will be looking a little better. I already have a job teaching Home Ec. at a nearby school at home. My brother wants me to work in a city school someplace but for myself I think it wiser to work in a small school first and perhaps the 2d year try a large school. My instructors want me to work in

Kentucky, but I want to get nearer home, and besides N. C. pays more.

Dr. Mitchell I want you to get prepared for a shock. I have accepted a ring from a boy at home. He is in the Merchant Marines and has been shipped to Norfolk for shipping across. He spent this past week-end with me and I felt really honored having him come from N. Y. to see me. No, there isn't any danger of my getting married soon, for I don't want to do anything like that until after the war. Both of our parents think that it is alright, and mom said it was alright provided we didn't get married anytime soon, and there isn't any danger of that.

So far my money has been coming in just fine, but I have $30. or $40. still to come and we are somewhat worried about it — I have forgotten which foundation it is. I want have any money at all for my next 3 mon. and this summer's work, and I don't think my parents can afford to let me have all I need, so I guess I'll have to borrow from someplace although I do hate the idea, but it looks as if that is my only way to graduate this August.

Have to close now as it is getting rather late.

Yours truly,
Ola Lee Jacob

Murray State College
Murray, Kentucky

Box 305

February 18, 1944

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

Here I am again with my troubles and I do hate to bother you as I know you are very busy but it seems as if I am a trouble maker. I was over today to check on my scholarship funds just to see where I am standing and I still have approx. $80 coming — where from I do not know. Your letter has been misplaced which stated how much each group were to give me. It did come to $315 - I think and now I have spent $235 which leaves them owing me $80. After this quarter (with the funds now) I will only have $7.45 for next quarter and if my other funds doesn't come in I don't know where it will be coming from. Seriously, I hate to ask my parents for $200 as that will be the amount I will need for the Spring + Summer quarters. My parents have had a hard winter — things has

Murray State College
Murray, Kentucky

come that they hadn't expected and my brother is definitely spending his money as fast as he makes it. If there is any possible way of borrowing $200 without my parents knowing it I am going to do so. This summer I am planning to work part of my way through, so that will probably take care of at least my board. I am in a spot and I don't know where to go.

Leaving my troubles aside for awhile now. I think I have told you I was doing my Student Teaching and so far my standing is A and I hope it remains the same. This is the first course I have come across that I really like. I also have a knack for nutrition too.

Guess I have to close as I do have a class tomorrow which needs some preparation for. I certainly wish you would advise me about my job for next year as it will soon be time for the hiring of teachers.

Yours truly,
Ola Lee Jacob

(over)

P.S.

I forgot to tell you but if it isn't too much trouble please send me the amount that each foundation was to sell for me. I hate to bother you but here's hoping that this will be the last time.

Thank you,
Ola Lee

March 4, 1944

Dr. Thomas Jesse Jones
Phelps-Stokes Fund
101 Park Avenue
New York 17, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Jones:

You will recall in September you had correspondence with Dr. Mitchell about a scholarship fund for Miss Ola Lee Jacobs, an Indian student from Pembroke, N. C., who is attending Murray State College in Kentucky.

In your last letter you indicated that you would recommend to your Committee that $80.00 be granted to Miss Jacobs as a contribution toward the sum required to complete her education. You said the matter would be discussed at your annual meeting about the middle of November.

It would be greatly appreciated if you would let us know the decision of the Committee as to whether or not Miss Jacobs is to be granted this money. We have a letter from her saying that her funds are running short.

Dr. Mitchell asked me to write you about this matter since he is extremely busy these days. As you probably know, he is no longer with the Farm Security Administration.

Sincerely,

(Mrs.) Joyce R. Kelly
Executive Assistant

FILE COPY

March 4, 1944

Miss Ola Lee Jacobs
Box 305
Murray State College
Murray, Kentucky

Dear Ola Lee:

Dr. Mitchell is so busy travelling around these days that he sent your letter to me and asked me to write you about your money. I think the trouble is that the Phelps-Stokes Fund has not as yet sent the $80.00 which we requested of them. I am writing them today to find out whether they intend to make this money available to you. Their last letter indicated that the matter would be taken up at their November meeting.

As to the rest of the money -- American Friends Service Committee put up $120.00; the Board of National Missions of the Presbyterian Church put up $75.00; and Hampton Institute put up $40.00.

Dr. Mitchell says he does not know anything about a job for you next year. He had thought Mr. Greene might have a place for you but if that is not the case, he thinks you might be able to get a teaching job in either Kentucky or North Carolina for a couple of years. As you probably know there is a great shortage of teachers at this time.

I'm sure Dr. Mitchell will write you as soon as he gets a chance and in the meantime, I will let you know what I hear from Phelps-Stokes about the $80.00.

Sincerely,

Joyce R. Kelly
Secy. to Dr. Mitchell

P. S. If you care to write me further about the money or anything, you can send it to me at 2509 Observatory Road, Cincinnati 8, Ohio.

J.K.

Form FSA 29 A
(11-4-40)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FARM SECURITY ADMINISTRATION
OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

MEMORANDUM

Date March 4, 1944

To: GSM

FROM: JK

SUBJECT: "Injuns"

Here are copies of the letters I wrote to and about Ola Lee. Hope the one to Jones will do the trick -- I'm not as good at writing this type of letter as you. Thought I'd better explain why I was writing instead of you so they wouldn't write back and ask who the heck I was. Also -- thought it was a good idea to write myself rather than ask Bronson to do it since it would save a lot of time.

Don't know any news that would interest you. Read in the Wash. Post that Al Black is about to resign as head of Farm Credit.

Understand you and Adele and Don had a "get-together" last week in Wash. Wish I could have been there.

Write when you have time.

☐ For your information. ☐ For your OK. ☐ For reply (your signature).
☐ For action as indicated. ☐ For file. ☐ For reply (my signature).
☐ See me.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16—9935

Telephone: AShland 4-8578.
Cables: "Stokesfund," Newyork.

PHELPS-STOKES FUND
101 PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK 17, N.Y.

March 7, 1944

Mrs. Joyce R. Kelly
Executive Assistant
Farm Security Administration
Cincinnati, Ohio

My dear Mrs. Kelly:

Your letter of March 4th to Dr. Thomas Jesse Jones has been referred to me for reply.

I am glad to enclose herewith check of the Phelps-Stokes Fund, dated March 7, 1944, for Eighty Dollars ($80.00), payable to Murray State Teachers College for the account of Miss OLA LEE JACOBS -- this amount being a scholarship grant authorized by the Trustees of the Phelps-Stokes Fund at their meeting on November 17, 1943.

We shall appreciate your sending this with voucher on to the College for Miss Jacobs.

Sincerely yours,

L. A. Roy

L. A. Roy, Executive Secretary.

LAR:can
Encls.

C
O
P
Y

Phelps-Stokes Fund
101 Park Avenue
New York 17, N. Y.

March 7, 1944

Mrs. Joyce R. Kelly
Executive Assistant
Farm Security Administration
Cincinnati, Ohio

My dear Mrs. Kelly:

Your letter of March 4th to Dr. Thomas Jesse Jones has been referred to me for reply.

I am glad to enclose herewith check of the Phelps-Stokes Fund, dated March 7, 1944, for Eighty Dollars ($80.00) payable to Murray State Teachers College for the account of Miss Ola Lee Jacobs -- this amount being a scholarship grant authorized by the Trustees of the Phelps-Stokes Fund at their meeting on November 17, 1943.

We shall appreciate your sending this with voucher on to the College for Miss Jacobs.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ L. A. Roy

Executive Secretary.

MAR 8-1944

BM-CLM

Mr. B. W. Strauss
Finance Area Manager
Farm Security Administration
U. S. Department of Agriculture
Indianapolis, Indiana

Subject: War Savings Bond
George S. Mitchell

Replying to: A-1-FC-2-JDF
12/29/43

Dear Mr. Strauss:

We are enclosing a personal check in the amount of $75.00 signed by Mr. George S. Mitchell. This check is to cover the purchase price of one $100 War Savings Bond issued to Mr. Mitchell in error under the payroll deduction plan.

Sincerely yours,

MAR 8-1944

W. O. Trone
Business Manager

Attachment
cc: Mrs. Joyce Kelly

CMason:aam 3-8-44

March 9, 1944

Murray State Teachers College
Murray, Kentucky

Dear Sirs:

There is enclosed herewith check of the Phelps-Stokes Fund, dated March 7, 1944, for Eighty Dollars ($80.00), to be credited to the account of Miss Ola Lee Jacobs.

Also enclosed is a voucher to be signed and returned to Mr. L. A. Roy, Executive Secretary, Phelps-Stokes Fund, 101 Park Avenue, New York 17, N. Y.

Sincerely,

Joyce R. Kelly
Executive Assistant

EXTRA COPY

March 9, 1944

Murray State Teachers College
Murray, Kentucky

Dear Sirs:

There is enclosed herewith check of the Phelps-Stokes Fund, dated March 7, 1944, for Eighty Dollars ($80.00), to be credited to the account of Miss Ola Lee Jacobs.

Also enclosed is a voucher ~~for execution~~ to be signed and return, to Mr. L. A. Roy, Executive Secretary, Phelps-Stokes Fund, 101 Park Avenue, New York, N. Y.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Joyce N. Kelly
Executive Assistant

Kelly, Joyce

Indians

75 Ivy Street, N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia
April 10, 1944

Mrs. Hazel A. Fredericksen
Field Consultant in Child Welfare
U. S. Department of Labor
Children's Bureau
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Fredericksen:

I was much interested in your letter of April 4 about the people at Pembroke.

When I was in the Farm Security Administration, I worked with the people there off and on for several years and did get to know some of them pretty well. Here are some matters about them, most of the matters facts, but some of them necessarily conjecture:

About fifteen thousand people in the group.

History: Nobody knows.

I have talked with the interested anthropologist in the Smithsonian, who has written a little article about them. He has read all the references in published histories of Southeastern Indians. His conclusion is that they are the remnants of perhaps as many as a dozen tribes of Indians who refugeed in the Lumber River swamps.

I judge they were pretty well civilized quite early. They played an important part in late Colonial and Revolutionary military expeditions, apparently as units of regular armies rather than as tribal groups.

Best opinion is that they are not Cherokees.

As most of the tribes from which they are supposed to have come were of Siouan stock, the Smithsonian people consider Siouan to be an appropriate name.

My own guess would be that they long ago had mixed with some runaway slaves who probably also refugeed in the swamps. I do not think Indian-Negroid mixture has happened much in the last sixty or seventy years. My guess is that, as the lands were cleared nearer and nearer to the river, the Indians were brought out from the swamps to crop the land.

The traditional and still prevailing contract is "the thirds", which means that the Indian families own no stock, no tools, and contribute merely their labor to the crop, receiving in return one-third of the crop. I do not believe there are many other places in the South where this contract is in use.

A good sprinkling of the families own small farms and a lot of them own tiny pieces of ground. Of course, those who own land are considerably better off and there may be some correlation between land ownership and the purer strain of Indian blood, but that is just a guess.

The traditional crops are cotton, corn, and tobacco, and many of the Indian farmers are quite good at the tobacco crop.

Land owners and proprietors of country stores living in Lumberton control the economy.

The Indians are rather compactly grouped, but they have recognized cousins farther down the Lumber River and a few stranded groups over in South Carolina.

I have sometimes suggested that the entire group be called the "Lumber River Indians".

The Indians have no treaty rights with the Federal Government and, with a few exceptions, are entitled to no privileges from the Government. The State recognizes them as Indians and provides the Indian schools and the Cherokee Normal Industrial Institute which, I believe, now offers four years of college.

As citizens of North Carolina, they have the vote.

I have always found that they have two most interesting characteristics:

1) They are very hardworking. None of their number expects a living without work.

2) They have some queer attachment to democratic action. I like to think it is a survival of tribal democracy. Whatever it is, they meet frequently and discuss the situation and choose leaders to do something about it, and collect money to get things done.

They have a most unfortunate split. Those who are better off cling to the tradition that they are Cherokees. I suspect that this groupsstands in politically with the local white political machine.

The other group accepts the name Siouan. They contain more of the croppers and they are generally restless politically. It is much the largest group.

I have heard of an interesting account of the split revolving around checks for scholarship prepared by the Indian Office some twelve or fifteen years ago. It was necessary to attach tribal names to each check. For certain reasons, the name Cherokee could not be used. Some of the Indians refused to accept the checks unless the checks bore the name Cherokee. Those who took them came to be called Siouans and those who refused them continued to be called Cherokees.

The only Federal benefit available at all is scholarship loans to persons certified by the Indian Office to be half-bloods or better.

The Indian Office sent down a physical anthropologist from Harvard, now five or six years ago, and he made a careful study of several of the families and used skull measurements, blood tests, and anything else available, and I believe a handful of individuals were certified.

Possibly because certification involved heightening of the racial separatisms of the people, the process of certification has gone no further. However, those certified would be available for loans from the scholarship fund, but I do not believe any advantage has been taken of this fact.

The Farm Security Administration proposed, in 1935 or 1936, several thousand acres of desirable land in the Pembroke area and has divided it into about seventy-five family type farms. An eight hundred acre tract of tobacco land called the Red Banks Farm was not subdivided, but was leased to a cooperative association of eleven Indian families who continue to farm it all in one piece. This is called the Red Banks Mutual Association and has been the subject of some controversy. My last information is that the Indians at Red Banks desired to keep their cooperative lease.

The family type farms have, during the last few years, largely converted from staple crops to livestock with a consequent decided increase in debt. Many of them, however, are doing very well.

The FSA Rehabilitation Program is important in the Pembroke area and a number of Indian loans have also been made to tenants to buy and improve family farms. The man locally in charge is Mr. H. G. Greene, Farm Security Administration, Pembroke, North Carolina. The official having policy direction

is Mr. J. B. Slack, Regional Director, Farm Security Administration, U. S. Department of Agriculture, State College, Raleigh, North Carolina.

I always found it desirable, in working with the people directly, to make duplicate contacts with a leader of the Cherokee group and a leader of the Siouan group. The individual whom I used to put me in touch with the Cherokee group was Mr. Martin Luther Lowry, of Pembroke. Some years ago, the recognized leader of the Siouan group was Mr. Joe Brooks. I believe Joe Brooks is no longer in a position of much authority as he has been away from Pembroke for some years. He is now in the Seabees in the South Pacific. I have his address somewhere and could get it if it were needed. In any case, Mrs. Brooks is probably still in Pembroke.

The NYA did quite a good job, in my opinion, in Pembroke. It used the old plantation house at Red Banks as a residence training center for a year or two and probably one hundred of the Indian boys got training there.

Several years ago, with the informal assistance of the people in the Indian Office, arrangements were made for the working up of a Pembroke Indian Pageant and Mrs. Ella De Loria, an Indian from North or South Dakota, stayed in Pembroke and worked up a pageant which was presented in two successive summers. The Pageant, I think, had much of the desired effect of increasing the pride of the people in themselves and it got them a good deal of publicity in North Carolina. It was really quite well done, I thought.

The Baptist and Methodist Churches are very strong among the Indians.

A couple of years ago, the then president of the Pembroke College was active in a civic and planning association called, I believe, the Pembroke Association. The president has moved on and I do not know what has happened to the association. Through the association and through other movements, however, from time to time, a good deal of planning has been done about the desirable future for the Indian group.

In my judgment, the great problem is land ownership. Their chance of real progress is bound up with their getting ownership. If they could have that plus still better schools, they would come right along. They are good people, industrious, proud, and responsible.

Mrs. Hazel A. Fredericksen April 10, 1944

With the help of several funds, I contrived some scholarship money for two or three of them. The boy we selected was Abner Nash Locklear, son of Mrs. Nettie B. Locklear, near Prospect. Abner had three years at Ohio State University in agriculture and was then drafted. He is now in the South Pacific.

We got two years at Ohio State for a girl, who dropped out after two years and we then chose another girl, Ola Lee Jacobs, who had a year at Ohio State and is to finish in August '44, I believe, at Murray State Teachers College, Murray, Kentucky. She is taking home economics.

So much is controversial about the Indian people that I would like this letter to be a confidential one to you.

They do need help and I am sure you will find them cooperative and appreciative of anything you can do for and with them.

If I can give you anything further about them specifically, please let me know.

I do get up to Washington pretty often and I shall put your name and address among my slips.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
CHILDREN'S BUREAU
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

April 4, 1944.

Dr. George S. Mitchell,
75 Ivy Street, N. E.,
Atlanta 3, Georgia.

My dear Mr. Mitchell:

I am Consultant for the area in which North Carolina is located. On my last field trip to North Carolina I received some information in regard to Indian children at Pembroke, Robeson County. Since that time I have discussed with Mr. D'Arcy McNichol of the Office of Indian Affairs, the group of Croatan Indians at Pembroke. He told me that you had become interested in this group and not only succeeded in rehabilitating some but in sending several of the boys and girls away to universities. I would greatly appreciate receiving some material from you that would give me additional background and information in regard to your work with this group. I am sorry that I did not know that I would be in need of this information when you were in Washington as I could then have discussed it with you.

I do not know how frequently you come to Washington. Perhaps if you were planning a trip in the near future we could plan a conference on this. In the meantime, I would be most appreciative of receiving any material that you may have that will give me information in regard to this group of Indians.

Sincerely yours,

Hazel A. Fredericksen

(Mrs.) Hazel A. Fredericksen,
Field Consultant in Child Welfare.

HAF:btc

I.

South Pacific area.
New Guinea.
April 21, 1944.

Dear Mr. Mitchell,

Your letter of March the 28th was really a great surprise. In fact Mr. I had almost given up hearing from you but I understand now why you having been able to write. I wrote home and asked for your address and I guess they know nothing at all of your whereabouts.

Yes Mr. it seems that you have also been through the Mill just like myself. Its really nice to hear that you like the type of work you are doing as much as I have to believe the F.S.A. will be lost without you. I'm hoping that you are not out to stay. Are you? I'm hoping you will be back in before this thing is over.

So am I hoping Mr. that the day won't be long when we can all celebrate around old Prosper. I'm almost positive Mr. that anything you say around Prosper will be backed to the fullest extent. That is if I have anything at all to say once I get back.

II.

And anything they need worse than new homes and School building Around Prospect Ha. is more of the same. And believe me Ha. if I know those guys like I think I know them there isn't anything they wouldn't do to get them. Thats my life's ambition. To see that they all have decent homes and some land that they can call their own. And if going back to Ohio State one, two or even three years will help achieve that end thats just what I'm going to do.

Guess it will feel like home once more when Mrs. Mitchell, the kids and father arrive in the summer. Seem Ha. that you should have a chance dropping by Pembroke sometime on your way to Washington or either on the way back. The folks would really be glad to see you I'm sure. By the way, Mom has been remodeling the home. Guess things will be different one I get back if I ever go.

Yes Ha. my only desire at the present is to finish College either at Ohio State or somewhere just to outstanding. Some how I must achieve that end. Some how. Then Prospect will look different.

Yours always,

Adam.

New Guinea
Jan 26, 1944.

Dear Miss Mark,

I must say that it was wonderful hearing from an old friend again. I've thought of you and the Cornelia often but for some reason I never heard from you. I guess all the mail was lost. I was lucky to still have the address after I arrived over seas.

Yes, there's lots of boys overseas now. I'm in office work myself. I can't say that I like it as well as being outside but that type of work must go on. So I'm doing my best. Of course that isn't much. But every little bit helps these days. I have rather long hours also. I work six and a half days a week, the half day being Saturday. I guess she make a good work woman after the war instead of a good wood chopper.

Nice to hear that Merrin was a lt anymore. I put in my application for O.C.S. after I arrived overseas but haven't been called yet. I passed the board O.K. but I don't know yet if I'll go to school since there seems to be a surplus of officers already. I still have hope though. Since I have Merrin's address I guess I had better drop him a line. By the way, how does he look in an officers uniform? Did his brother Bob go to O.C.S.? He should have. I'm sure he could have made it.

Yes, I remember Bob and Hal very well. It was bad about their father. I guess the family is over the shock by now though. I guess Hal really has a job now running the whole farm alone. Who would have ever thought Hal would have married. I guess everybody is crazy about the little daughter. No! It was bad news hearing that Bob was hurt in Africa. I have a Brother over in africa. Another back in the states. I guess he'll be over before long though from the way he talks. Bob has my regards and best wishes.

I also think of the days when I would go out to Westerville to trim up some firewood. Those were the days. I hope to have the pleasure of cutting some more wood for that same fire place before many more years passes. In fact I'm planning just that! I may not go back to Ohio State but even at that I'm coming back for a visit. I'm planning on going out to Oklahoma to finish school. Not that I don't like Ohio State its just for the experience. What do you think of the Idea? I'd like to have your opinion.

I must say that I wasn't too surprised to hear that you had retired as a Professor. I think it was a swell Idea. I see though that you still have quite a few responsibilities to contend with. How do you ever manage to get around

I guess they do still have good food at the faculty Club seeing that the University farms yields lots of fine vegetables. I guess the Campus hasn't changed much due to the Conflict or are they still building like they used to. I am picture Baker Hall on Saturday Nights. Everybody getting ready to move out for the Night. Those are just memories anymore though. When you see Dean Cook give him my regards. I must write him sometime.

Yes Miss Mark when the war is over and I'm lucky enough to pull through I hope to visit Ohio State again. I'm sure that I will look you up. Yes, the American Indian are doing a wonderful job in this war. Most of my High School are in the Army. Some in the Navy. Several are Engineers in the Navy. One of my boys, No relation to Lucille I don't suppose, is Captain in the Air Corps. So you see we are going up the Scale. I hope to write a book after the war about the part our boys are playing in it. The title, "Indians At War". What do you think of the Idea? I may need some help.

That all for now, so long and best wishes to you and Clara, and may God guide you.

A friend,

Abner.

P.S. Give everyone my regards.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
CHILDREN'S BUREAU
WASHINGTON 25

May 10, 1944

Fredericksen

Mr. George S. Mitchell
75 Ivy Street, N.E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

I certainly appreciated your very fine letter containing the detailed information in regard to the people at Pembroke, N.C. I believe that there is enough interest now in the State Department of Public Welfare to give assistance in child welfare to this group of people. I had hoped to continue some additional work with them but since I last wrote to you, my husband has been transferred to the West Coast and I have resigned from the Children's Bureau to accompany him. I do believe, however, that the knowledge I gained from your letter and my own interest has stimulated enough interest in two workers in the State Department of North Carolina to follow through on some of the plans that we made when I was in North Carolina about two weeks ago.

If you should be in Washington prior to May 17, I would be very glad to talk further with you about Pembroke. Again thanking you for your time and interest.

Very sincerely,

Hazel A. Fredericksen

(Mrs.) Hazel A. Fredericksen
Field Consultant in Child Welfare

May 12, 1944

National Board of Missions of the
Presbyterian Church of the U. S. A.
New York
New York

Dear Sirs:

You will recall that the Board, some years ago, generously contributed toward the education of an Indian boy from Pembroke, North Carolina -- Abner Nash Locklear.

Abner had three years at Ohio State University in Agriculture with the Board's help. He was then taken into the Army and has been for about a year in the South Pacific area.

I have just had a gratifying letter from him, dated New Guinea, April 21, 1944, in answer to a letter I had written him in March, urging that he hold to his plan for completing his college course when he gets back and for using his training to help the people in his own rural neighborhood of Prospect Church and the other fifteen thousand Indians in the area. I quote the following from his letter:

"So I am hoping Dr. that the day won't be long when we can all celebrate around old Prospect.....

"And anything they need worse than new houses and school building around Prospect Dr. is more of the same. And believe me Dr. if I know those guys like I think I know them there isn't anything they wouldn't do to get them. That's my life ambition. To see that they all have decent homes and some land that they can call their own. And if going back to Ohio State one, two or even three years will help achieve that end that's just what I'm going to do.

".....By the way, Mom has been remodeling the house. Guess things will be different once I get back if I ever do.

National Board of Missions
of the Presbyterian Church

May 12, 1944

"Yes Dr. my only desire at the present is to finish college either at Ohio State or some place just as outstanding. Somehow I must achieve that end. Somehow. Then Prospect will look different."

I should suppose that Abner will be fully eligible for Government aid in completing his education when he gets back. I knew that the Board would be pleased, as I was, by this evidence that the boy we helped has made up his mind as to what his education and experience should be used for.

I have no fresh news of Ola Lee Jacobs, who should now be in her last few months before getting her degree at Murray State Teachers College.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

May 12, 1944

The Trustees of the
Hampton Institute
Hampton, Virginia

Dear Sirs:

You will recall that the Trustees, some years ago, generously contributed toward the education of an Indian boy from Pembroke, North Carolina -- Abner Nash Locklear.

Abner had three years at Ohio State University in Agriculture with the Trustees' help. He was then taken into the Army and has been for about a year in the South Pacific area.

I have just had a gratifying letter from him, dated New Guinea, April 21, 1944, in answer to a letter I had written him in March, urging that he hold to his plan for completing his college course when he gets back and for using his training to help the people in his own rural neighborhood of Prospect Church and the other fifteen thousand Indians in the area. I quote the following from his letter:

> "So I am hoping Dr. that the day won't be long when we can all celebrate around old Prospect.....
>
> "And anything they need worse than new houses and school building around Prospect Dr. is more of the same. And believe me Dr. if I know those guys like I think I know them there isn't anything they wouldn't do to get them. That's my life ambition. To see that they all have decent homes and some land that they can call their own. And if going back to Ohio State one, two or even three years will help achieve that end that's just what I'm going to do.

The Trustees of the
Hampton Institute

May 12, 1944

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I have no fresh news of Ola Lee Jacobs, who should now be in her last few months before getting her degree at Murray State Teachers College.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

May 12, 1944

The Phelps-Stokes Foundation
New York
New York

Dear Sirs:

You will recall that the Fund, some years ago, generously contributed toward the education of an Indian boy, from Pembroke, North Carolina -- Abner Nash Locklear.

Abner had three years at Ohio State University in Agriculture with the Fund's help. He was then taken into the Army and has been for about a year in the South Pacific area.

I have just had a gratifying letter from him, dated New Guinea, April 21, 1944, in answer to a letter I had written him in March, urging that he hold to his plan for completing his college course when he gets back and for using his training to help the people in his own rural neighborhood of Prospect Church and the other fifteen thousand Indians in the area. I quote the following from his letter:

> "So I am hoping Dr. that the day won't be long when we can all celebrate around old Prospect.....
>
> "And anything they need worse than new houses and school building around Prospect Dr. is more of the same. And believe me Dr. if I know those guys like I think I know them there isn't anything they wouldn't do to get them. That's my life ambition. To see that they all have decent homes and some land that they can call their own. And if going back to Ohio State one, two or even three years will help achieve that end that's just what I'm going to do.

The Phelps-Stokes Foundation May 18, 1944

".....By the way, Mom has been remodeling the house. Guess things will be different once I get back if I ever do.

"Yes Dr. my only desire at the present is to finish college either at Ohio State or some place just as outstanding. Somehow I must achieve that end. Somehow. Then Prospect will look different."

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I have no fresh news of Ola Lee Jacobs, who should now be in her last few months before getting her degree at Murray State Teachers College.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

May 12, 1944

American Friends' Service Committee
Philadelphia
Pennsylvania

Dear Sirs:

You will recall that the Committee, some years ago, generously contributed toward the education of an Indian boy from Pembroke, North Carolina -- Abner Nash Locklear.

Abner had three years at Ohio State University in Agriculture with the Committee's help. He was then taken into the Army and has been for about a year in the South Pacific area.

I have just had a gratifying letter from him, dated New Guinea, April 21, 1944, in answer to a letter I had written him in March, urging that he hold to his plan for completing his college course when he gets back and for using his training to help the people in his own rural neighborhood of Prospect Church and the other fifteen thousand Indians in the area. I quote the following from his letter:

"So I am hoping Dr. that the day won't be long when we can all celebrate around old Prospect.....

"And anything they need worse than new houses and school building around Prospect Dr. is more of the same. And believe me Dr. if I know those guys like I think I know them there isn't anything they wouldn't do to get them. That's my life ambition. To see that they all have decent homes and some land that they can call their own. And if going back to Ohio State one, two or even three years will help

achieve that end that's just what I'm going to do.

".....By the way, Mom has been remodeling the house. Guess things will be different once I get back if I ever do.

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I should suppose that Abner will be fully eligible for Government aid in completing his education when he gets back. I knew that the Committee would be pleased, as I was, by this evidence that the boy we helped has made up his mind as to what his education and experience should be used for.

I have no fresh news of Ola Lee Jacobs, who should now be in her last few months before getting her degree at Murray State Teachers College.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

May 12, 1944

Mrs. Joyce Kelly
2509 Observatory Road
Cincinnati, Ohio

Dear Miss Joyce:

We got a nice letter from Abner and Mrs. Meltzer here has typed out letters to go out to the people who put up the money. I haven't got everybody's address, so I lean on you for the kindness of mailing them out.

Enclosed are the stamped envelopes to be addressed. Notice that each envelope has, in light erasable pencil, a notice as to the Board, Fund, Institute, etc. it ought to go to.

Sincerely,

P.S.: Here is also a note to Abner's mother, whose address, the Lord knows, I have forgotten. Would you address it, please, Ma'am?

P.P.S.: This Indian business goes on forever and I can't assume that forever and always you will have an office and a typewriter and time and disposition to be Lady Gracious for me and my Indians. What would you think of your writing up a slip of paper that gives me the addressesof all of these foundations, so that I have them, including, of course, the name of the head man or lady that we have been writing to and getting letters from?

May 12, 1944

Dr. Mary Louise Mark
c/o School of Social Work
Ohio State University
Columbus, Ohio

Dear Dr. Mark:

I saw a notice some months ago of your withdrawal from active work. I know you miss the work and I know the University misses you.

I thought you would be interested in the attached letter from Abner.

With cordial regards,

Sincerely,

Attachments

May 12, 1944

Dean of Men
Ohio State University
Columbus
Ohio

Dear Sir:

You will be gratified I am sure, as I was, by the attached excerpts from a letter to me from Abner Nash Locklear, one of your students now in the armed forces.

Sincerely yours,

Attachment

May 12, 1944

Mr. J. B. Slack, Regional Director
U. S. Department of Agriculture
Farm Security Administration
Raleigh, North Carolina

Dear JB:

Here are some excerpts from a letter from Abner Nash Locklear, from Pembroke.

I thought it would please you and the others at the office who have helped the Indians.

Would you please send it on to L. C. Green, marked "confidential"?

Sincerely,

Attachment

May 12, 1944

Mrs. Nettie B. Locklear
Pembroke
North Carolina

Dear Mrs. Locklear:

I have such a nice letter from Abner. It was dated New Guinea, April 21, 1944. He is getting along all right and is mighty anxious to get things in shape so he can come home. He says when he gets back that there are a lot of improvements to be made around Prospect and all around in Indian country. He mentioned that you were remodeling the house and he thought things would look different when he got back.

He says he is going to go on and finish college and then come to Pembroke to stay.

Abner gives his address as:

T/5 A. N. Locklear--ASN 34258308
Hq. Co. Qm. Sect. Base "D"-APO 929
c/o Postmaster, San Francisco, Calif.

I have moved to another job in Atlanta. I am going to Richmond to drive my wife down to Atlanta early in June and, just possible, I can steer the car through Pembroke if I get enough gas. If I do, I shall certainly want to come out to see you and the others.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

May 12, 1944

Mrs. Ruth M. Bronson
Office of Indian Affairs
Chicago
Illinois

Dear Mrs. Bronson:

Observe the attached encouraging news.

Cordially, as always,

George S. Mitchell

Attachments

c.c. of each Foundation letter.

Chairman, RUFUS M. JONES Telephone: RITTENHOUSE 9372 Executive Secretary, CLARENCE E. PICKETT

American Friends Service Committee

Twenty South Twelfth Street

Philadelphia 7 Pennsylvania

May 18, 1944

Mr. George S. Mitchell
CIO Political Action Committee
75 Ivy Street, N.E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

My dear Mr. Mitchell:

Mr. Pickett has asked me to thank you for sending him the news of Abner Nash Locklear. His letter sounds most encouraging. A copy of your letter is being sent to Mrs. Roosevelt who, I am sure, will be glad to get this word.

Sincerely yours,

Blanche C Zacher
Secretary to Mr. Pickett

BCT

7 Indiana

May 23, 1944

Mrs. Nettie B. Locklear
c/o Prospect Church and School
R. F. D.
Pembroke, North Carolina

Dean of Men, Joseph A. Park

Dear Mrs. Locklear:

Here is a letter from the Dean of Ohio State University about Abner.

It was mighty fine of Abner to send in some money to the University.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

Enclosure

Indexed

75 Ivy Street, N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia
May 25, 1944

Dear Joe:

I have moved around so much that I lost your last one or two letters and, though I have hunted since, I have only found them today. That gives me your address, if it is still an address that gets to you.

I do hope you are well. Your Seabees are mighty stingers. I just don't want any Japs to sting you. How am I going to get that fishing in on the still, gray waters of the Lumber River if I don't have Joe Brooks when the war is over?

The Congressmen got so bad that Mr. Baldwin, who was running the Farm Security, resigned and took a job for a while with the State Department, intending to go to Italy and be a head man there. I went along to the new Foreign Economic Administration with him about last Christmas time. After a while, the CIO set up this Political Action Committee and asked Mr. Baldwin to be the Assistant Chairman of it. So Mr. Baldwin has gone to New York. Then they asked me to work in the South for the Committee and I took on the job.

We are trying to get all the poor folks in these states to pay their poll taxes, sign the registration books, and turn out on Primary Day and Election Day and vote for some Congressman that will do poor folks some good. A whole lot of people, I find, don't like the idea of poor folks voting and there are a lot of poor folks that are a little lazy about voting, but we get behind them and, so far, we have added many thousands of new voters. Maybe your papers will have shown you that a few of the worst Southern Congressmen have already been licked in the Primaries. We don't claim we did it, but we did have something to do with it. The A. F. of L. goes along with us in some places, but generally it holds back. The Railroad Brotherhoods work with us nicely. We need to do a lot to get little farmers to work with labor politically. Our hopes for that are tied up with the Farmers Union, which is a good outfit. They have already got nine or ten locals in Georgia and one in Tennessee and they hope to get started in Virginia and North Carolina. The Lord speed the day when every small farmer in Robeson County belongs to the Farmers Union.

You taught them how to join up in St. Anne's and Prospect and Philadelphus and Elrod with the "Joe Brooks Fix-'Em-Up Association". It ought not to be much of a jump from that to locals of the Farmers Union. When they get that and work with the city voters, I hope to see the day when Brookstown is a succession of the neatest little farms you ever saw, when there aren't any more croppers within forty miles of Pembroke, and when Joe Brooks will be remembered as the man who started modern progress in those parts.

I got a nice letter the other day from Abner Locklear. He is somewhere out in the South Pacific. He says when he gets home he's going to see to it that all the Indian farmers have white houses and tight barns and good stock and own their own land. That's what we trained him for and I hope he comes through to do the job. Ola Lee is at Murray State Teachers College in Kentucky, where her brother went. She finishes up in a few months. I don't know what job she will get, but I hope it is with her own folks.

Don't forget: Within four months after the war is over, you and I will be present at a great open air ceremony on the banks of the Lumber River, when the charter of the Farmers Union is presented to the Pembroke Lodge. After the ceremonies, we're going to sit down at somebody's dinner table and start cutting on another one of those 14 pound roasted Rhode Island Reds that they raise around there and then we're going to bear into one of those whopping hams and, as the Good Book says, the peas and beans and potatoes and the fixings, good as they may be, will be "little accounted". Pie and custard after the other part. For that sort of an occasion, it might be permitted for some of the head men to get off into the woods and take a nip of fire-water.

Remember me cordially to Mrs. Brooks and the children, please.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

P. S.: Old man Dugald is going to make the shingles for the lodge house.

P. P. S.: Houston's house is long since finished and the whole Johnson family lives in it--warm in the winter, cool in the summer, and dry the year round. Mrs. Mitchell made a hand printed list inside a big picture frame of all of the people that worked on the house and Joe Brooks' name is high on the list.

Joseph Brooks, CM 2/C
57 Batt. - B-2 F. P. O.
San Francisco, California

Oct 21, 1943.

Dear Dr.

Just a few lines to answer your letter of Aug 24 That was received a Week ago.

All is Well at this out post and May I say that We have done a Splendid job here. It is of Course impossible for me to say More than that due to new eye of our Censors.

The first Lady was here some time ago, but I didint get to see her.

I'm Spending my Spare time gathering some rather unusal Shells that I hope the Mail Man will soon be able to deliver to my little Friends "Mesaesaus Mitchell" by Christmas.

Page 2.

I havent herd from Red Banks since planting time. I still think it coned be made into something realy worth while.

Glad to hear from Ola Lee and that she is doing so well.

I wouned be glad to sit in Brooksdown to nite, and settle the affairs of state over a hook and line, provided of course all of our countrys enemies were crushed

Permit me to wish you and yours the seasons greeting.

Sincerely yours friend

Joseph Brooks C M 2/c.

57 Batt - B - 2 - 7. P.O.

San Francisco,

Calif.

Board of National Missions
of the Presbyterian Church in the
United States of America
156 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

May 25, 1944

My dear Dr. Mitchell:

We do appreciate your thoughtfulness in sending us such an interesting bit of news about Abner Locklear. As you know we take a personal interest in the students who receive scholarship assistance and like to follow their development. We have a feeling of personal pride in boys such as Abner who show both a determination and a desire to continue with their education in spite of the interruption caused by the War. We certainly hope that he will return safely and may realize his ambition to finish his education in order that he may return to Prospect and make a contribution to his people by helping them raise their standard of living.

Thank you so much for sending this information on to us.

Very sincerely yours,

Lillian A. Windham

Lillian A. Windham
Assistant Secretary, Unit of
Educational and Medical Work

Dr. George S. Mitchell
75 Ivy St., N.E.
Atlanta 3, Ga.

LAW-ba

New Guinea
May 25, 1944.

Dear Mr. Mitchell,

Just a line to let you know that things over here are fine and that I'm fine also hoping that these few lines find you and the family likewise.

Things are kind of beginning to run in my favor anymore Mr. I'm leaving for O.C.S. tomorrow I hope. I passed the board several months ago, in fact when I first arrived over here, but I was just called to report to school a few days ago. I really had my fingers crossed. I haven't let any of the folks at home know about it for specific reasons. So I had rather you not let them know anything

about it. So you see if I don't make good they won't know anything about it. I hadn't planned on letting you know anything about it but I changed my mind. Thought maybe you could help me out a bit. If you could I'd really and truly appreciate it. If you think you can let me know.

If I don't make it the. it won't be because I didn't try. You can bet your boots on that. If I, for some reason, fail it will be the first undertaking yet that I have missed up. So keep your fingers crossed won't you? So for four months of hard work, here I go.

So until later I remain as as always,

A friend,
Abner.

HAMPTON INSTITUTE
HAMPTON, VIRGINIA

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

May 26, 1944

Mr. George S. Mitchell
Regional Director
CIO Political Action Committee
75 Ivy Street, N.E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

On behalf of the Trustees of Hampton Institute I wish to acknowledge with appreciation your report dated May 12th regarding the young people of Indian extraction who have been assisted with their education by Hampton Institute.

Sincerely yours,

Ralph P. Bridgman

Ralph P. Bridgman
President.

RPB:w

June 16, 1944

T/5 A. N. Locklear, 34258308
QM Sect. Base "D"
APO 929, c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, California

Dear Abner:

Many thanks for your letter of May 25.

I am delighted with the new opportunity you have. I shall keep quiet about it, expecting you to come through O. K.

I am getting along all right. I drove Mrs. Mitchell and the children down to Atlanta the other day and we are getting settled.

I see that the bill now in Congress providing for post war benefits for veterans is, at the moment, written to contain fifty dollars a month sustenance allowance for veterans pursuing further education. I don't know that anything was said about tuition, but I feel sure that tuition expenses would be borne by the Federal Government, so you are sure of finishing your agricultural education.

The old style work in ag. colleges taught men how to make a good farm inside of four fence corners. You need to know how to make rich country and able people up and down the Lumber River. Study that. You are to be an agricultural statesman, not merely an agricultural expert.

It is something like the difference between being a doctor and being a public health official. You have to get a medical degree before you go to a school of public health, as at Baltimore or at Cambridge. You need an agricultural degree to give you the credentials of an agricultural expert; then you need

to go on and learn how to be an agricultural statesman. And always remember: the colleges teach about soil and crops. You need to know about people, too.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
HOWARD L. BEVIS, *President*
COLUMBUS

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL ADMINISTRATION
CHARLES C. STILLMAN, *Director*
CARROL DAY TIBBALS, *Assistant to Director*
JAMES E. HAGERTY
MARY LOUISE MARK
ROBERT G. PATERSON
STOCKTON RAYMOND
WALTER C. RECKLESS
W. C. BATCHELOR
ELSIE VOORHEES JONES
WM. J. BLACKBURN, JR.
JOHN A. REIMERS
MERRISS CORNELL
ORAM C. WOOLPERT
HELEN A. WISGERHOF

June 21, 1944

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

It was thoughtful of you to send me Abner's letter, which I am returning to you after having enjoyed it. I am enclosing the last one I had from him. I think as he says that letters get lost for I'd written him two or three times and he may have written to me oftener than I know. I'm glad he is getting an office experience. It should help him later on.

I've followed with sorrow the fate of FSA which to my mind was one of the most democratic and valuable of the present administration undertakings. I'm glad to know that you are doing something you like. I wish we had a strong consumers' political action committee that could cover all local areas. A consumer - at least this one - gets so angry and is so futile. All kinds of success in your new work. I very much like the C&Q leaders Eva met.

As you know Eva had a year of retirement, in which she rested and worked on a textbook on statistical projects. I had lived for years in a state of chronic fatigue and now think I was kind of smart to stop at 65, for I feel vastly better and feel occasionally a little wisp of real energy.

Yours sincerely,

Mary Louise Mark

The Admiralty Island
Group.
July 2. 1944
57 Batt - B - 2. F.P.O.
San Francisco, Calif.

Dear Mr.

Just got your letter of May 25th, Glad to hear from you again. That address is allways good, tho I've moved around quit a bit in the last few months. From what you say in your letter I think Congress done the Poor Souther farmer, an laborer a Splendid tho not intentionally, You remember our good Sec. Mr Chaves I'm taking the priveledge of sending him your address so that you can expect a letter from him please see that he gets on your mailing list. and who can tell

but what we will have a organization when I get home. and any thing that I can do to help the cause along let me know. If you have abners address send it along. I might run across his outfit some time.

I got a Picture with G. S. M. already marked on it, I'd send it but it wont pass the Censor, its made right near my tent. We havent got any stationary right now so I'll have to stop. Why dont you go up to St Anna and give a speach. to keep the organization from falling apart.

Sincerily,

Joseph Brooks Co M 7/C.
57 Batt. B. 2 F. P.O.
San Francisco, Calif.

July 27, 1944

Dear Joe:

Very nice to hear from you again. I am glad you are still in good shape. Do send me the picture of yourself when you can.

I am thinking seriously of going up to Pembroke and talking to some of the boys about the Farmers Union. I do hope your friend Chavis will write to me.

I am mailing you a copy of a recent supplement to the "New Republic" with valuable dope about how the Members of Congress voted. This has been greatly sought after in a good many Army posts.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

Joseph Brooks, CM 2/C
57 Batt.--B.2--F. P. O.
San Francisco, California

Indian

UNITED STATES NAVY

August, 7, 44
9th Btn. B.D. F.P.O.
San Francisco,
Calif

The Admiralty

Hello Ole.

Your letter of the 27th just came, and I'm glad to know that you are thinking of Pembroke, I wish I was there, so I might be of some service, in getting that union started.

It wasn't a picture of my self that I had in mind, its one that I cant send, due to my good friend the Censor, it shows the results of a good days work

I havent as yet received the other material you mention, but will be glad of the information, as news from the states is always gladly received here.

We are getting Sunday afternoons off now, to do our laundry and attend divine services.

Oh! by the way I saw quite a rite up, about your organization in "Time" magazine, I dont remember the date of it, and didnt know at the time that you were connected with it, I might add that I think you

Indian

UNITED STATES NAVY

job a worse job than I had with Brookstown, however I'm sure you can do it. and as soon as I can get away from this "little" assignment out here, I'll be right in there pitching, to help all I can in my small way.

Let me know if you except small donations, to help the cause along. tho I'd rather bear the expense of you going to Brookstown and getting them started.

Sincerely
Joseph Brooks C.M.2c.
S-7 Btn-B. 2. F.P.O.
San Francisco Calif.

P.S. Im forwarding your letter to James E. Chavis.
JB

August 31, 1944

Dear Joe:

I tried to stop by Pembroke once, but I had to go off the line to Winston-Salem and couldn't get to Pembroke.

I am going to mail some copies of the Farmers Union paper to James E. Chavis and write him and ask him to give me his address. I suppose there are four hundred Chavises around Pembroke and four or five James Chavises, but maybe the letter and the papers will get to him.

Lord yes, the National Citizens Political Action Committee would be delighted to have a donation. Send it to me and I will mail you a receipt.

I am mailing you a couple more pamphlets.

My wife and family are going up to Richmond for the winter in a few days and I will have to be a bachelor in Atlanta. They will take care of Father, who is eighty and still teaching.

Come on back, Joe.

Sincerely,

Joseph Brooks, CM 2/c
57 Btn. - B 2 - F.P.O.
San Francisco, California

Frederick

September 7, 1944

Mr. James E. Chavis
Pembroke
North Carolina

Dear Mr. Chavis:

Joe Brooks tells me he has been writing to you about some of my proposals.

I am mailing you some copies of a recent issue of the "National Union Farmer". You may want to give these to a few friends so that they get some idea about what the Farmers Union is.

Will you write me your correct address?

I want to stop in Pembroke on some trip fairly soon and talk to you.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

9-18-44

My dear Dr. Mitchell:

Thank you for sending me, on May 12th, the information about Abner Locklear. I am sending the letters on to the Indian Office to my successor, where they should be filed. Like yourself, (as I gather from your letter-head) I have left the government service. I resigned from my job last November, almost a year ago now, to come home and keep house for my family. I decided it was time I stopped letting some one else look after them.

I shall be interested in any news of Abner or Ola Lee, and I hope that both of them are able to secure the training you coveted for them. I hope also that you find your new work satisfying. My own job now certainly is that.

Sincerely

Ruth M. Bronson

Ruth M. Bronson
1426--35th St. N. W.
Washington D. C, (7)

Indians

Oct. 13. 1944
The admiralty.

Hello Dr.

I'm just sending this picture, so you can see, that we have poor folks out here too, hoping to see you soon Joe.

Joseph Brooks CM 1c.
57 Batty B-2 FPO.
San Francisco, Calif.

Native of the
Admiralty.

New Ulmia
Saturday Evening
Nov 4, 1916.

Dear Mr. Mitchell,

Just a few lines to let you know that I'm not in Australia any more and as you probably know already that I didn't make C.C.S. as much as I had hoped I would. I'm not in the least worrying about it though. Maybe it will be the best in the long run. I'm rather glad now that I didn't let Mom know any thing about it. I guess she would have been upsetting

me to be make it but now that
she doesn't know I guess its a
little better that way. As you
can see Mr. I'm in private at
the present and I guess I will
be for the duration plus six. I
can't quite figure it out but
what little I do know I can't
explain just now. Maybe after
the war is over and I return
to the states, that is, if that
ever happens to me. I'm
not taking a defeatist attitude
Mr. its just the fact that
I have been pushed around
so much now that I don't care anymore.

I'm not doing badly at the present time. I'm in the best of health but I can say that I have really been on the ball lately. Of course it may have been all in vain and nothing to my credit but never the less I enjoyed it and am not in the least dissatisfied with the results so far. By the way, I was your brothers picture in "Time Magazine." At least it was a Mitchell. W.C. Mitchell was the name and I think that its your brother or am I mistaken. It was a free article on "Time" on the economics of the U.S. at present anyway.

I heard from Mom and the kids yesterday. They seemed to be doing fine. I don't suppose you have time to drop around or even write but if you do they never mention the fact to me. But if you ever get the chance to drop around I'm sure that Mom and the kids would be glad to see you. Every time Mom writes she want to know if I ever hear from you. And of course the answer is yes, occasionally. I explain that I don't write you as much as I should.

Had a letter from Pres. Bank of Ohio State Univ. he mentioned the fact that he had heard from you. It seems from his letter that he expects me back although I'm afraid he's going to be mistaken. He may write a short to you also tu. but I don't expect to go back to school. I realize that if I decide not to that my leaving at will, be great deal. But Never the less I hate to associate with the same people I did at one time. I'm almost positive what you are thinking of at the time. O.K. so I am taking a defeatist attitude towards the situation. But that's

one of my best friends. My forefathers were perhaps around and then gone and I'm getting the same thing at present although I hope some day that I could help my kind of people to get out of that rut. I guess I'm getting up in. I just don't have the patience.

"I just saw the nice picture book, Sadie lets send." Henry Russell's orchestra was furnishing the music. I have seen better but for New Chinese I guess I can't complain. That tells the news for now Ed. I don't see no sense of writing so much but when I get started the letter tries to grow. So good night and my best regards always.

Yours as always
Ward.

CIO POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE
75 Ivy Street, N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

November 17, 1944

Miss Ola Lee Jacobs
Murray State Teachers College
Murray, Kentucky

Dear Ola Lee:

Please write and tell me how you're getting along. Do you finish in February?

What do you plan to do when you finish?

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

Pembroke, N.C.
November 19, 1944

Dear Dr. Mitchell,

I have been planning to write you for some time but the habit of procrastination is hard to overcome.

I enjoyed the report on Abner Nash Lockhart. I think the fact that he & people to come back and work in his own community is very note worthy. The Indians in Robeson County have more capacity to make progress than any of the races in the country, for they have racial pride which is lacking in the Negro race. The white people in this County believe in letting the other races do the manual labor. This is not true of the Indians. What they need is intelligent, unselfish leadership.

Red Banks farm is making very good progress financially. However, they still have a long way to go before they capture the spirit of cooperation in its entirety. The Board of Directors are attempting to raise the quality of membership to some extent by filling vacancies with the very best men available. As the farm progresses more and more skilled jobs come up to be done. This is one reason we are searching for a slightly higher type member. I hope the cooperative will have an opportunity to purchase the farm in the near future. It will be necessary to have a very closely knit organization when this takes place.

I am enclosing a financial statement of the Association as of Oct. 1944 which might be of interest to you.

The farmers on the individual
units had a good year also. A
majority of the occupants are retiring
their debts as they come due as
well as building up reserves of cash
or personal property. We started
a Milk route through the project
several weeks ago which is proving
very successful. Some of the families
are doing well with their poultry.

I was very much pleased over
the outcome of the election. The
P. A. C. no doubt had a very great
influence on that outcome. It seems
that "government of the people, for the
people & by the people" is actually coming
to pass.

I often wonder if in the long
run to solve the problems of labor
& capital it will not be necessary
for cooperatives to develop to the
point that they can compete
successfully with capitalism.

Sincerely,
Herbert Green

November 28, 1944

Mr. Joseph Brooks, CM 2/c
57 Btn. -B 2- F.P.O.
San Francisco, California

Dear Joe:

H. C. Green very kindly sent me a letter the other day with this statement in it.

I thought you would be interested in it. Maybe some of your friends have sent you one already.

Your friend Chavis never has written to me. What's the matter with him?

I had a letter from Private A. N. Locklear, 34258308, Hqs. Co. G.M. Section Base D, APO 929 % Post Master, San Francisco, California. He is kind of down in the dumps and says when he gets back he is not going to study any more. I think he has been pushed around some and not given the kind of duty he would like.

Maybe it would do good if you would write him a letter and give him fits about any idea of not finishing his education. The government will cheerfully provide him with up to three more years of education practically free when he gets back. We must contrive to get him back to Ohio State or to some other agricultural college to finish. He will be worth three times as much to the people at Pembroke if he gets his degree in agriculture.

I will appreciate it if you will get after him.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

November 28, 1944

Mr. H. C. Green
Pembroke, North Carolina

Dear H. C:

It was mighty nice of you to write me the other day. The financial report of Redbanks was a delight. Imagine a profit of nearly $3,000 a family!

I have plans for dropping off at Pembroke in the near future. I hope I shall find you there.

Alice and the children are living in Richmond this year with my father who is eighty this year and still teaching. I travel so much that I can be in Richmond almost as much as I can in Atlanta, so we live somewhere. I usually take the Southern back and forth, but some sweet day I will take the Coastline and get dumped at 48X at the city of Pembroke.

I hear frequently from Abner Locklear. He has left Australia and is on some remote island.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

75 Ivy Street, N. E.
Atlanta, Georgia
November 29, 1944

Dear Abner:

I am disturbed by your letter of November 4th.

Whatever comes, the right thing for you is to finish your education just as soon as the war gives you a chance. The government will pay your tuition I am satisfied for even two or three years of college to get your degree and pay you $50 maintanance besides. If you should be married, I think the maintainance would be increased.

If after you get back, you go on and get your agricultural degree, your earning power ten years from then would be four times what it would be if you did not have that completed training. Even more important your usefulness to your people would be vastly greater.

It is hardly too much to say that if you come back to college and finish, you can in your lifetime get landownership, good homes, and prosperity for three thousand Indian farming families in ~~Robinson~~ Robeson County.

If you don't finish your training, the getting of those things will be held up by ten or twenty years. Have you got a right to keep three or four thousand families in the toils and poverty of share cropping?

Think about this thing and please make up your mind that you are going to do what is right.

I know a wise man who says that after this war is over, each educated man that gets home is going to have to do the thinking of a dozen men in ordinary times. At least ten out of

every twelve fellows that get back will be so shaken and their training so cut back that they can't do the lifting that they could otherwise do. You have to be one of the two that comes through able to lift. You are started that way and well started.

I haven't been to Pembroke but I have early plans for getting there, and I shall want to go out and see your family. I know they are proud of you and of the hopes that rest in you.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

Pvt. A. N. Locklear-34258308
Hgs. Co. GM Section Base D
APO 929, % Postmaster
San Francisco, California

January 5, 1945

Dear Joe:

I am sending you the enclosed pamphlet as I thought you might find it enjoyable and helpful.

Sincerely,

Joseph Brooks, CM 2^{c}c
57 Btn. - B 2 -F.P.O.
San Francisco, California

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FARM SECURITY ADMINISTRATION
Pembroke, North Carolina
January 5, 1945

IN REPLY REFER TO

Personal

Mr. George S. Mitchell
Regional Director
Political Actions Committee
75 Ivey Street, N. E.
Atlanta, 3, Georgia

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

Replying to your letter of January 2 concerning the address of James Chavis, the address is Pembroke, North Carolina, Route 1.

Yours very truly,

H. C. Green

H. C. Green
Community Manager

HCG:GAH

75 Ivy Street, N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

January 11, 1945

Mr. James Chavis
Route 1
Pembroke, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Chavis:

I have been trying to get Joe Brooks to send me your correct address, but it is hard to get things quickly and in order from wherever Joe is.

I wanted you to see these copies of a recent issue of the National Union Farmer.

They give what I think is a sure enough farm program.

If you will write me sometimes, I would like to stop over and talk to you.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

CLASS OF SERVICE

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WESTERN UNION

1201

A. N. WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT

SYMBOLS

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1945 FEB 23 PM 1 47

QC94 TA23

T.VZA196 NL PD=WA WINNEMUCCA NEV 23

GEO S MITCHELL=CARE REGIONAL DIRECTOR PAC
75 IVEY ST SE ATLA=

WOULD LIKE TO SEE YOU IN BROOKSTOWN WHILE ON MY LEAVE COULD YOU VISIT POOR FOLKS LORD YES THE FISH ALWAYS BITE THERE=

JOE..

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

March 1, 1945

Mr. Joe Brooks,
USN-CB on furlough
Pembroke, North Carolina

Dear Joe:

I am mighty glad you are back. I hope it is for a long time.

If you say the word I will come to Pembroke, arriving the morning of Saturday, March 10th to stay until Saturday night, and if necessary some of Sunday.

Do you suppose we could have a small meeting of some farmers around that neighborhood so we could talk about ways for farmers to get ahead?

Please write me that you are going to be there. Of course, I will want to see James Chavis too.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

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WESTERN UNION

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A. N. WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT

(124)

1945 MAR 1 PM 12 31

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QA54

1945 MAR 1 PM 12 31

Q.LA409 7 COLLECT=PEMBROKE NCAR 1 108P

DR GEORGE S MITCHELL=

75 :75 IVY ST RN ATLA=

JOSEPH BROOKS ARRIVED IN PEMBROKE YESTERDAY=

H C GREEN.

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

March 2, 1945

Mr. James E. Chavis
Rt. 1, Box 237
Pembroke, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Chavis:

I have been out on a trip and just got back yesterday to find your good letter of February 10.

Also I found a telegram from Joe Brooks dated February 23rd from Winnemucca, Nevada saying he was on leave and hoped I could see him at Pembroke. I don't know when he is getting to Pembroke, but I am trying to find out. I hope to be there and see him and you while he is there.

I suggest that you and some of your friends subscribe to that National Union Farmer paper. I think it is the best reading farmers can get.

I am looking forward to seeing you.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

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WESTERN UNION

1201

(35)

A. N. WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT

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1945 MAR 5 PM 1 39

QA41

Q LE324 10=FAYETTEVILLE NCAR 5 213P

GEORGE S MITCHELL=

75 IVY ST SOUTHEAST RN ATLA=

BY ALL MEANS COME MEETING ARRANGED NOTIFY TIME OF ARRIVAL=

JOE

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

March 5, 1945

Mr. Joe Brooks
USN-CB on furlough
Pembroke, North Carolina

Dear Joe:

Glad to get your wire. Glad you can have a meeting.

I will get to Hamlet either at 11:00 at night Friday the 9th or at ten minutes after five in the morning Saturday the 10th, and get by myself from Hamlet to Pembroke, arriving at Pembroke at the latest by 10:20 Saturday morning on the train, and earlier probably by bus.

I would like to leave out of Hamlet at 10:55 at night Saturday, but I don't absolutely have to, and I could leave sometime Sunday.

Yours for fixing 'em up.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

March 22, 1945

Phelps-Stokes Fund
101 Park Avenue
New York 17, New York

Gentlemen:

Here's a scrap of further report on Abner Nash Locklear whom the Board assisted in the three years of training he had at the Ohio State University before going into the Army.

I visited his home at Pembroke, North Carolina a few days ago. They had little recent news of Abner. My own last news was as of November or December when he seemed still attached to a laundry company in one of the Pacific islands, and a bit dismal.

Mrs. Locklear's home had a couple of new rooms built onto it. As she expressed it, "When your shack starts to shaking, you just have to do something about it." She has been allotted an acre and a quarter of tobacco, which is more than she has had recently, and despite a multiplying crop of grandchildren and worries about sons in the war, was cheerful.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

Also to: Board of National Missions of the Presbyterian Church
American Friends Service Committee
Hampton Institute

March 22, 1945

Hampton Institute
Hampton, Virginia

Gentlemen:

You will recall the generous assistance over several years given by the Trustees to training a couple of Indian students from Pembroke, North Carolina.

I had occasion to be in Pembroke a few days ago, and checked up on results so far.

I found Ola Lee Jacobs living at her family's farm and working temporarily for $120 a month as a warehouse clerk at the Army Air Base at Maxton, North Carolina.

Murray State Teachers College in Connecticut where she had been for the last several years permitted her to return to Pembroke in July, 1944 and complete certain remaining requirements for her diploma by correspondence. These were done, and she was awarded a BS in Home Economics in September, 1944. So there's one we got through.

She had several conflicting offers of jobs teaching Home Economics at the time of her graduation, but ended by taking this job. She told me that she intends to go back to Murray State Teachers College in September, 1945 and do a year's work for a MS in Home Economics. It would be her hope that with the Masters degree out of the way, she could be given the job of Home Economics teacher at Pembroke College. Here, of course, she would be teaching her own Indian people.

Ola Lee's mother spoke with a beau now in the Army whose plans might conflict with these MS plans of the daughter, but Ola Lee hereelf seemed pretty positive.

If she goes on with the Masters degree, it is, of course, her own financial responsibility. Your group has done its whole generous duty. Incidentally, Mrs. Jacobs told me that Ola Lee's college education had cost Mr. Jacobs and herself about two thousand dollars.

Ola Lee looked well and cheerful. Facetiously I told her she was welcome to ten years for getting married and starting a family, but I hoped that at least from then on, she would be around Pembroke teaching what she knows to the Indian people.

I am sure that many people will have cause to be grateful for the help of the Trustees in training Ola Lee.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

Also written to:

Phelps-Stokes Fund
Board of National Missions of the Presbyterian Church USA
American Friends Service Committee

Also sent copy of
Ahmed Lockhart letter Nov. 29, 1944

March 22, 1945

Dear Abner:

I stopped in Pembroke Saturday, March 10th. Joe Brooks was back for a month's furlough. He and James Chavis arranged a meeting of about forty of the government farmers, and I talked to them about setting up a local of the Farmers Union. They liked the idea, but we are waiting until we can interest other farmers off the project.

Mr. Green ran me out to see your people. There seemed to be nobody at home at your own house, but one of your younger brothers came along on a bicycle, and told me that your mother and your brothers were visiting at a cousin's house. We went on down there and had a pleasant little visit with your mother. There were two babies, one a month old and one two weeks old, each a nephew or a neice of yours. Total grandchildren now--six, all well.

I believe your mother said she was putting out an acre and a quarter of tobacco this year which was more than she had had until this time.

The new rooms on the house look grand.

They all miss you, and want you to get on back.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

Pvt. A. N. Locklear-34258308
Hqs. Co. GM Section Base D
APO 929, % Postmaster
San Francisco, California

March 22, 1945

Mr. Sevastian Sampson
RFD #3
Box 33
Maxton, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Sampson:

Coming down in the train today I picked up a copy of Coronet with an article on Page 71 about the National Farmers Union.

I thought you would enjoy reading it, and perhaps passing it on to others.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

Also to:

Norman Locklear
RFD #1, Box 35
Roland
Robeson County, N. C.

James E. Chavis
Rt. #1, Box 235
Pembroke, N. C.

Lacey Maynor
Pembroke, N. C.

Mr. Doc Locklear
Redbanks Farm
RFD #3
Maxton, N. C.

TELEGRAM

March 24, 1945

Pvt. Joe Brooks on furlough
Pembroke, North Carolina

HOW ABOUT MARCH 30 and 31 for my next visit. Wire.

George S. Mitchell

Charge to:
C.H.Gillman
75 Ivy Street
Atlanta, Georgia

Indian File

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION

1201

(26)

A. N. WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT

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QA42

1945 MAR 26 PM 12 36

Q LE202 5=PEMBROKE NCAR 26 1240P

GEO S MITCHELL=

75 IVEY ST SOUTHEAST RN ATLA=

ARRANGEMENTS MADE FOR SAT 2:30=

JOE.

2:30.

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

Telephone: AShland 4-8578.
Cables: "Stokesfund," Newyork.

March 27, 1945

PHELPS-STOKES FUND
101 PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK 17, N.Y.

Mr. George S. Mitchell
Regional Director
CIO Political Action Committee
75 Ivy Street, N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

We have received your letters of March 22nd concerning Miss Jacobs and Abner Locklear. We are delighted to know of their substantial progress in good works. We are much impressed by your continuing helpful interest in them and especially by your wise advice to them. The Phelps-Stokes Fund is happy to have been able to cooperate with you in your worth while service for these young persons and for the Pembroke people.

With cordial greetings and every good wish,

Very sincerely,

Thomas Jesse Jones

TJJ
BLH

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Executive Secretary
CLARENCE E. PICKETT

American Friends Service Committee

Twenty South Twelfth Street
Philadelphia 7, Pennsylvania

Telephone, RITTENHOUSE 9372

March 27, 1945

Mr. George S. Mitchell
CIO Political Action Committee
75 Ivy Street, N.E.
Atlanta 3, Ga.

Dear George Mitchell:

I am delighted to have your letters about Ola Lee Jacobs and Abner Locklear. I have taken the liberty of sending them on to Mrs. Roosevelt since it was largely through her interest that funds were made available for them.

I am glad to know that the educational campaign of which you are a part is going on even though there is no immediate election in the offing.

Sincerely yours,

Clarence E. Pickett
Executive Secretary

CEP:BCT

Board of National Missions
of the Presbyterian Church in the
United States of America
156 Fifth Avenue, New York 10, N.Y.

Indians

March 28, 1945

My dear Mr. Mitchell:

It was very thoughtful of you to think of this Board when you visited in Pembroke recently and to take time to send us news of Ola Lee Jacobs and Abner Locklear. We are glad to know that Ola Lee hopes to take her MS in Home Economics next year and then to return to teaching at Pembroke College. If the beau who is now in the Army interferes, it would not be the first time! We have had the experience more than once of seeing promising young Indians, Spanish Americans or Cubans from our schools through college with the aim of using them as teachers or nurses and then having them marry. While this is always a disappointment professionally, we try to console ourselves with the thought that they will make their contribution as home makers and mothers rather than as professional leaders. Sometimes the rare person is able to combine both, but not often as home making, or teaching or nursing, are full-time jobs if done well.

We hope that you can hold Abner to completing his college training when he leaves the Army. When I was in the Southwest recently I talked with one of our Indian boys and a Spanish American who had just been released from the Service because of injuries. Both, with encouragement, were ready to go on to college and we are hoping that there will be many who will take advantage of the opportunities offered by the Government under the G. I. Bill of Rights.

I am interested to see your new affiliation and I suppose you know that Miss Lois Gratz, our mutual acquaintance, who used to be with the F.S.A., is now in Chicago with the Immigrants' Protective League.

Very sincerely yours,

Katharine E. Gladfelter

Katharine E. Gladfelter
Assistant Secretary, Unit of
Educational and Medical Work

Mr. George S. Mitchell
Regional Director
C.I.O. Political Action Committee
75 Ivy Street, N.E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

KEG.JL

Indian

April 7, 1945

Mr. C. L. Reynolds, Business Manager
Hampton Institute
Hampton, Virginia

Dear Mr. Reynolds :

I greatly appreciate your letter of April 4th about the Indian students from Pembroke.

I shall bear in mind the willingness of the trustees to receive recommendation of other worthy Indian students who might be helped from time to time. I haven't anyone immediately in mind, but I hope to be close enough to the people at Pembroke and one of the other Indianscommunities to hear of someone who would badly need help.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

HAMPTON INSTITUTE
HAMPTON, VIRGINIA

OFFICE OF THE BUSINESS MANAGER

April 4, 1945

Mr. George S. Mitchell, Regional Director
CIO Political Action Committee
75 Ivy Street, N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

Thanks very much for your letter of March 22, telling of your visit to North Carolina, and giving us up-to-date information on Ola Lee Jacobs. It is always gratifying to receive a word from Indian students who have been given assistance from the funds here and it is especially pleasing to know that they are continuing their education and making a real contribution.

Your letter to Abner Nash Locklear was most interesting. I sometimes wonder how with the many duties which you have there is sufficient time to go intricately into the lives of students in whom you are interested. You are certainly to be complimented for your enthusiasm and your uncanny ability to assist in solving their many problems.

Should occasion arise, we should be pleased to have your recommendation of other worthy Indian students who may be helped by the small grants which we are able to make from time to time.

With very best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

C. L. Reynolds
C. L. Reynolds
Business Manager

CLR:GAG

Indian

April 23, 1945

Pvt. A. N. Locklear-34258308
Hqs. Co. GM Section Base D
APO 929, % Postmaster
San Francisco, California

Dear Abner:

I am very glad to hear from you in your letter of April 9th.

I went back to Pembroke at the end of March and we got fifteen farmers to form a local of the National Farmers Union. It is the first one in North Carolina. The president is John Bunyan Locklear and the secretary is James Chavis; the rest who joined were on the resettlement farms. I hope others from outside will come in right away.

I saw Ola Lee when I was at Pembroke early in March. She looked mighty fine. She has a job at the air base as a warehouse clerk, but swears she is going back to Murray State Teachers College this fall and get herself a MS degree in home economics and come back to Pembroke to teach. I hope she does. Her mother told me that a beau is around, though, and I have my fears that it won't happen.

When you come back to Pembroke with the agricultural degree that I still want you to get, they will elect you president of the Robeson Farmers Union.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Philippines,
April 9, 1945.
Monday Evening.

Dear Mr. Mitchell,

Just a few lines to say that at the present I'm in the best of health sincerely hoping that these few lines find you and the little family likewise.

Been a little hesitant about doing any writing lately due to the fact that I haven't been myself lately. And of course there has been plenty of work to do. As a matter of fact I owe Jean Park a letter and have been for some time. I just don't find enough courage to write him. One of these days I think I must though.

Had a letter from home a few days ago and they were telling me about the trip you made up in those parts. I guess it was quite a surprise to the whole family to see you. Jane was telling me that he wasn't home when you were

there, but I'm sure he would have liked to have been. I suppose Mom told you all of her troubles didn't she? If she didn't she just isn't herself any more. I realize she has quite a few these days but she always had a tendency to over-do things of that nature. And now that she's older and all the boys are away I can just imagine what a time Sam's has with her. He has a lot of patience though.

I guess I've that you have always been of the impression that the Philippines were just like all the rest of the South Sea Islands we used to see in pictures, that is to say, if you have never been in these parts. If you have never had the pleasure of visiting the Philippines and have felt the way about them that I have I must say that you are mistaken. I'll admit that these are not ordinary circumstances at the time and that maybe it would have been better before the Japs came and went, but it would have to be a heck of a lot better to be any where near my expectations before my visit.

Maybe I haven't visited any of the better spots as yet though. At least I hope to sometime in the near future.

Surprisingly enough though most of the people here speak English pretty, which I must say is quite a great help. If one had to learn all of the languages of the different Provinces which he usual lick happens to have the pleasure of visiting, I must say that he would be in quite a mess. But if you know the army, a trip all over the whole of the Philippines isn't unlikely. And believe me I've had my share of them already.

It seems that school is rather a thing of the past from my standpoint. I guess I'll be an old man by the time I get out of this army and I don't think I'd look right going back to school at and old age. I doubt I'll ever change my mind.

That all for now dear so until later I remain,

A friend,
Abner,

Sent to all foundations

September 25, 1945

Phelps-Stokes Fund
101 Park Avenue
New York 17, New York

Gentlemen:

You will be interested in further news from Abner N. Locklear, the Indian student from Pembroke, N. C., whom the fund assisted.

He wrote on September 12th from the Philipines, where he is now stationed on a farm project.

"At the present, Dr., I'm doing fine on the farm and must say that I am in the best of health, which I suppose can be accredited to the fresh vegetables I have been getting for the past three months. It's really swell here on the farm, Dr., but nothing compares with that one back in N. C. There's a lot of equipment that hasn't been used yet due to the fact that right now is the rainy season and there isn't a great deal of work to be done in the fields. We have close to seven hundred acres plowed but only around two under cultivation. At present our main crops are radish, cucumber, peppers and eggplants. We have tried some corn, watermelons, squash and lettuce, but it didn't do too well. We have seven D-4 caterpillars and 26 rubber tired tractors. So you see that things will be off to a big start by the time I'm ready to go home. I hope."

He expects to be back home by Christmas and says he will come to Atlanta for a brief visit. Finally and most cheerfully, he says he hopes to be back in Ohio State University for the winter quarter. You may recall he had wavered considerably as to whether an education was worthwhile.

My last news of Ola Lee Jacobs, the girl student, was that she is employed in the County Welfare Unit of her home county, I suppose as a sort of social worker.

This is for files and needs no reply.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

September 26, 1945

T/5 A. N. Locklear - 34258508
Qn. Farm Project - A.P.O. 74
C/o Pm. San Francisco, California

Dear Abners

You cheered me up no end with your good letter of September 12th.

It is just fine that you intend to go back to Ohio State.

The education clause in the G. I. Bill of Rights is by far the best thing in the act. It is generous and it is wise. You are doing just right to take advantage of it.

Incidentally, I think the monthly payment to students under the bill is about to be upped from fifty dollars to sixty dollars. For married students it is about to be upped from seventy-five dollars to eighty-five dollars, so if you want to get married, you could live at Columbus for a year or more in fair style.

You know you would be entitled to up to four more years of school. I don't want to frighten you, but why shouldn't you get your BS in agriculture at Ohio State, and then take one more year - a year of graduate study - at some topknotch agricultural school like Minnesota or Cornell? Then you would be one of the eight or ten best trained agriculture men in North Carolina.

However, I would be satisfied with a single year.

It is fine that you are coming to Atlanta. We will have a lot to talk about. We can make plans for the next fifteen years for Robeson County.

Have I written you that John Bunyan Locklear is president of a thriving local of the National Farmers Union, called the Robeson Farmers Union.

A good Farmers Union, plus a Cornellagriculturist, could make the territory around Philadelphus and Elrod the garden spot of the Carolinas.

Come on home. We need you.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Philippine Islands
Sept 12, 1945

Dear Dr. Mitchell,

A few lines to say Hello and to let you know that I'm in hopes of being home by Christmas if nothing drastic happens. As soon as I get home I'm planning on going down to Atlanta for a few days stay. I have quite a few friends on the way that I can stop in & spend a few hrs. with.

At the present Dr. I'm doing fine on the farm and must say that I'm in the best of health which I suppose, can be accredited to the fresh vegetables I've been getting for the past three months. It's really swell here on the farm Dr. but nothing compared with that one back in N.C. There is lots of equipment that hasn't been used yet due to the fact that right now is the rainy season and there isn't a great deal of work

to be done in the fields. We have close to seven hundred acres plowed but only around two under cultivation. At present our main crops are Radish, Cucumber, peppers & Eggplants. We have tried some corn, watermelons, squash and lettuce but it didn't do too well. We have seven D-4 Caterpillars and 26 rubber tired tractors. So you see that things will be off to a big start by the time I'm ready to go home. I hope.

I haven't heard from Jean Park for some time now. Guess he's rather busy these days with the returning soldiers who plan to enroll right away. Hope he has myself on his hands for the winter quarter.

That all the news for this time Hr. So until later Bye and the best of good luck always

Sincerely,
C. N. Porter,

Chairman
HENRY J. CADBURY

Honorary Chairman
RUFUS M. JONES

Executive Secretary
CLARENCE E. PICKETT

Ondiscl

American Friends Service Committee

Twenty South Twelfth Street
Philadelphia 7, Pennsylvania

Telephone, RITTENHOUSE 9372

X

RECEIVED
OCT 8
Southern Regional Council
VETERANS SERVICES

October 5, 1945

Mr. George S. Mitchell
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
Room 432, 63 Auburn Ave., N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear George:

Thanks for sending me the quotation from Abner Locklear's letter and, also, the note about Ola Lee Jacobs. I appreciated reading them very much.

It looks as if the investment was not too bad even though it did not come out as we had planned. I have sent a copy of your letter on to Mrs. Roosevelt.

Sincerely yours,

Clarence E. Pickett

Clarence E. Pickett
Executive Secretary

CEP:mf

Jordan

November 19, 1945

Mr. Abner Locklear
Maxton, North Carolina

Dear Abner:

I am just terribly sorry you couldn't find me. The truth is I was in Augusta, Georgia, anyway the night of November 2nd.

For future reference, my house is 906 Lullwater Road, NE. Because of the war, they won't give me any telephone yet, and everybody who looks for me has a hard time finding me.

It is just wonderful that you are back and getting things lined up to return to Ohio State.

I should think that after you get your degree in agriculture you will have every chance in the world for getting a job at Pembroke. Probably, it would be good if you had one or two years experience somewhere else in an agriculture job before you came back to Pembroke for good. But maybe what you have done in the war, especially in the Philippines, would satisfy the personnel officers in Raleigh as to the broadness of your experience. Anyhow, the main thing is to go on and get your degree now. You know Congress has almost finished raising the GI pay to $65.00 single and $90.00 married. Why not get married and get in on the $90.00? This would be a mighty good time to do some picking around Pembroke. If that happens, let me know, and I will stand behind you at St. Anne's, or Philadelphus, or Harpers Ferry, or whatever church you pick.

Joe Brookes wrote me he is home and the fishing is fine.

I hope you will join the local of the Farmers Union. See Doc Locklear or James Chavis.

While you are at home, it would be a good thing for you to go to Raleigh and meet Mr. J. B. Slack, who is now regional director of the Farm Security. His office is in a tall building on Fayetteville Street. Mr. Green would tell you which one. Just go and tell him who you are and what your education and experience has been, and that you have an eye on a job some day at Pembroke. Of course Mr. Slack may not be there the day you get there, but don't let that stop you. Talk to his secretary and tell her what your business is, and she will give you some other man to talk to. A good friend of mine there is Mr. Carter Chase, who runs the Farm Ownership Division. It would be well to talk to him, if he is in that day. Also try to see Mr. Vance Swift, who is North Carolina State Director of Farm Security.

Go and see Ola Lee sometime and find out how she is doing. If all my dreams come true, you and Ola Lee will be working together on the fix-'em-up program. You know how to run a sure 'nuff farm, and Ola Lee knows how to run a sure 'nuff home.

My regards to your mother and family. I know they are glad to have you back.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Marion, N.C.
Nov 14, 1945

Dear Mr. Mitchell,

This is Abner writing from good old N.C. State. I arrived the 4th of Nov. I had my discharge when I got home. I just wouldn't leave the post without it.

I was there Atlantic the Night of the 2nd but was unable to find you. I was down to the church building but learned there you had left the CTO and was in the big Methodist building. There was no light in that so I go to the police station. They was unable to find you either. So I give up the chase. Hope to see you soon.

I'm just now filling out an application for schooling under the G. I. Bill of rights. I'll hear from them in about four weeks. When I do I let you know what happens. Hope I'm able to go back to the State at least for one year anyway.

I was down on some of the F.S.A. farms yesterday. They really look swell and those boys really enjoy farming now. I sure would like to work with those guys some time. They owe you a lot to and I think most of them realize it.

That's all for now for but will write and more the next time.

Sincerely yours

Elmer

J. ALLAN DUNN, SALISBURY
MRS. GEORGE MCNEILL, FAYETTEVILLE
CLARENCE W. GRIFFIN, FOREST CITY
R. D. W. CONNOR, CHAPEL HILL
W. T. LAPRADE, DURHAM
GERTRUDE S. CARRAWAY, NEW BERN
MRS. P. F. PATTON, HENDERSONVILLE

North Carolina
State Department of Archives and History

RALEIGH

R. D. W. CONNOR, CHAIRMAN
CHRISTOPHER CRITTENDEN, DIRECTOR

January 18, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
63 Auburn Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear George:

In accordance with my promise of last Tuesday, I am glad to send you under separate cover the number of THE NORTH CAROLINA HISTORICAL REVIEW containing the article on Pembroke State Teachers College for Indians. It isn't very well done, but seemed to be the best that Dean Oxendine could produce.

We enjoyed having you at the meeting.

Yours sincerely,

Christopher Crittenden
Editor: THE NORTH CAROLINA
HISTORICAL REVIEW

Indian

Sent to all foundations

January 22, 1946

Mr. Clarence E. Pickett
Executive Secretary
American Friends Service Committee
12 S. 12th Street
Philadelphia 7, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Pickett:

Further brief on our two Indians:

Abner Nash Locklear has returned from the army. He spent a few weeks at Pembroke and reentered Ohio State University under the GI Bill of Rights. Three more quarters will give him his BS in agriculture in August '46. He wants to go on to Cornell for graduate study. Says, "I'm having quite a time trying to make myself concentrate on my studies at night, but I think that I can master that situation O.K."

Ola Lee Jacobs is employed as a social caseworker for her home county's Department of Public Welfare. She is responsible for casework among the 15,000 Indians in her county. On a visit there recently, I was told that the state personnel officers had raised their eyebrows over the home economics major instead of the sociology major, but they had let her through.

Don't bother to reply.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Indian

January 22, 1946

Mr. Abner N. Locklear
Tower Club Stadium
Ohio State University
Columbus 10, Ohio

Dear Abner:

It was kind of you to write me the other day. I am delighted that you are back and that things promise to go so well. You have made the right decision at every point.

I had a nice visit at your home the day after you left. It would be my luck to get there just too late to see you. Your mother fed me on country ham, which was something I hadn't got my teeth into for a long time.

My advice would be to stay on until August and get your degree. Then you can have a few weeks at home and enter Cornell in September.

You should write to Cornell now and tell them you want to enter in September. Very soon they will have so many applicants, they will be refusing to let others in. The way to get in is to get the Ag dean or somebody like that to write to Cornell for you just about the time you write to Cornell. It might also be well to use my name as a reference in your letter of application. If they care to write to me, I will tell them that you are a good egg.

My regards to Dr. Marks when and if you get to see her.

I am afraid FSA will not take me back.

Sincerely,

GSM:w

George S. Mitchell

January 15, 1945
Columbus 10, Ohio.

Dear Dr. Mitchell

A few lines to say that I'm back at Ohio State and must admit that I'm liking it just fine. As you probably would guess its quite a change over. That is from Army life almost immediately into school.

I'm having quite a time trying to make myself concentrate on my studies at night but I think that I can master that situation O.K.

At present Sir. I have sixteen hrs. of work which doesn't seem very much but never the less it keeps me busy most of the time. They include 5 hrs. of Poultry

husbandry, the same of Bacteriology, three hrs. of Rural Economics and three of Farm Machinery. All are rather interesting courses.

At present I have 152 hrs. on a degree and needs 200 hrs. That means I can finish in three quarters if nothing unusual happens. I don't make up my mind as to going to school this summer. If I do I can finish in August. If not it will be Christmas. Of course I'll know much more about that later on.

I'm living now in the Tower Club. Thats one of the Clubs under the Stadium. It doesn't cost too much. Just $90. a quarter. That means of the $195. I get from the Army a quarter I'll have $105. for other odds

and ends. So as you see that isn't too bad after all. of course the $500. for tuition and books I'm just not able to spend so much as I'd love to.

I'm just wondering if you are ever going back to the F.S.A. It seems lost with out you. I suppose though that you like your present job a little better.

I was unable to get up to Raleigh and see the men you mentioned in your last letter Fri. but I will as soon as I get home for a few days. I suppose they will still be there.

So until I hear from you I remain

your friend
Abner

Telephone: AShland 4-8578.
Cables: "Stokesfund," Newyork.

January 24, 1946

PHELPS-STOKES FUND
101 PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK 17, N.Y.

Mr. George S. Mitchell
Southern Regional Council
Room 432, 63 Auburn Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

Dr. Jones was very pleased to read your letter of January 22nd giving news of the two Indian students in whom the Fund has been interested for the past few years. We are all glad that Abner Locklear has returned safely and that he is now working for his BS at O. S. U.; and we are glad also to know that Ola Lee Jacobs is doing well in her home county's Department of Public Welfare. They both seem to be excellent material.

Dr. Jones askes me to extend to you his cordial greetings.

Sincerely yours,

Rachel L. Huntington

Secretary

Ondean

January 28, 1946

Mr. Abner N. Locklear
Tower Club Stadium
Ohio State University
Columbus 10, Ohio

Dear Abner:

There is nothing so wrong about staying on at Ohio State for your degree. It is better, though, to move around some.

Not everybody to whom you will be talking about a job for yourself later on knows what a good place for agriculture Ohio State is. Everybody does know about Cornell's agriculture. Also, you meet another group of people, and you would find later that that second group of teachers and deans would be interested in your getting ahead.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

January 25, 1945

Mr. George S. Mitchell.
63 Ashburn Ave, N.E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

Received your letter of the 22nd and must say it was really nice to hear from you again.

Mother hadn't mentioned the fact that you were out home the day after I left. She seems to forget things of that nature. Nice to hear you enjoyed the dinner.

I was over to fix up a schedule today for the spring quarter and to my regret learned that I would not be able to graduate until next Christmas. The courses I may will

Not be given until next winter quarter. Any way I'm going to school this summer and get in a few extra hours.

By the way Sir, what wrong with my doing my work at the N.Y. here at State? Of course I realize that Cornell probably has a better set up than they do here at State. As you know I know my way around here now. Any way time will give the out come

Here hoping that you're in F.S.A. before I finish.

Sincerely,

Adam H. Lockear

January 29, 1946

Mr. Clifton Oxendine
Pembroke
North Carolina

Dear Mr. Oxendine:

The other evening I sat next to my friend, Chris Crittenden, who shares my enthusiasm for Pembroke.

He very kindly sent me a copy of the January, 1945, issue of the North Carolina Historical Review with your article in it.

I greatly enjoyed reading it.

Sincerely yours,

George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Services

GSM:jm

Indian

Indian

Board of National Missions
of the Presbyterian Church in the
United States of America
156 Fifth Avenue, New York 10, N.Y.

February 1, 1946

My dear Mr. Mitchell:

It is very good of you to write us about Ola Lee Jacobs and Abner Nash Locklear. We are very glad to hear that Abner is out of the army and that he has re-entered Ohio State University under the G.I. Bill of Rights and hopes to secure his B.S. in agriculture in August 1946. If I did not know of the original plans for using him in work with Indians in the eastern part of the country, I am afraid that we would be tempted to try to interest him in work with the Board as there are two of our Indian schools, Dwight in eastern Oklahoma and Ganado Mission in Arizona, where we would like nothing better than to have a well trained Indian farmer! We are interested to see that Ola Lee Jacobs is doing social casework. It sounds as though she has a large assignment and we hope that she is meeting these responsibilities successfully.

I have not heard any report of a visit to Warren Wilson yet. Do remember that the latch string is still dangling.

Very sincerely yours,

Katharine E. Gladfelter

Katharine E. Gladfelter
Assistant Secretary, Unit of
Educational and Medical Work

Mr. George S. Mitchell
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
Room 432, 63 Auburn Avenue, N.E.
Atlanta 3, Ga.
KEG:cer

Indian

March 20, 1946

Mr. Z. R. Chavis, Jr.
Box 237
Route #1
Pembroke, N. C.

Dear Mr. Chavis:

I did not answer your letter of March 8th, but rather called Mr. Green and asked him to try to get in touch with you for me. The proposition was that you would meet me at Raleigh when my train went through there the morning of the 13th. I don't know whether word got to you or not. In any case, I could not find you in the station in Raleigh.

I could engage you for a few weeks to get word around in Robeson County about on-the-farm training and on-the-job training.

If you are interested, how can we get together to talk about it? I would be willing to pay your travel expenses to Atlanta and back, if you could get here by or before the 27th of March. My office address is 63 Auburn Ave., NE, fourth floor, and the phone number is Walnut 7963 or Walnut 1821. My home address is 906 Lullwater Road, NE, and the telephone is Dearborn 5961.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Indian

Pembroke N.C.
Rt 1 Box 237
March 8, 1946

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Director of Veterans Affairs -
Southern Regional Council Inc.

Dear Doctor Mitchell:

I saw Joe (Brooks) this week end & he was telling me that he saw you & you two had a good long pow wow. Glad to hear that you're connected with us fellows who have been in the different branches of service

I imagine that you're

begonning to wonder who I am. If you remember I was N.Y.A. Supervisor at Red Banks during the time that you were at Raleigh with F.S.A.

I returned from the Army Nov. 5, 1945 after a stay of 4 years + 3 months. It seems that there are no jobs here now. Of course you know the situation here in Robeson County. That we hit of race destination here + etc. it's as bad now as ever.

Some day I hope all the poor white people here in Pembroke & Vicinity will soon die out or migrate

I enjoyed your article very much in the thought you sent Joe - we need some one here to kinda help us fellows find out what the actual benefits of a Vitron are -

Why don't you drop by & see us all some time. Ab Locklear is now back at Ohio State. Sure hope he finishes soon -

Sure was glad to hear that you were still making out good & let us hear from you very soon.

Joe said you might be able to place a Liason officer for Veterans here.

By the way, if you can help me get a job. I would appreciate it very much for I'm tired of doing nothing.

Thank you

Sincerely

J. R. Davis Jr.

Indian

April 11, 1946

Mr. Abner N. Locklear
Tower Club
Box 94
Ohio State University
Columbus 10, Ohio

Dear Abner:

I am glad to get your letter of April 6th. The grades are all right, but you can do better.

When do you now expect to finish?

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

April 6, 1946.

Mr. George S. Mitchell
63 Auburn Ave, N.E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

The winter quarter is over and the Spring Quarter well on its way. I was home over the vacation and every body was doing fine.

I had a word or two with Miss Gibbs and she seems to be enjoying married life fine. I presume you knew she was married. She talks as if she enjoys her work.

I was unable to see Mr. Green. He was out every time I went to town. The F.S. boys all seemed to still be enjoying life. I had a talk with several of them.

I made two B's and two C's last quarter. That wasn't too bad the first quarter back after three and a half years away from school. I'm expecting to do better this time.

Had to some extra work my first few quarts here I'm not going to be able to finish as soon as I expected.

Sincerely
Abner H. Bucklear

Indian

April 26, 1946

Mr. Z. R. Chavis
RFD #1
Box 237
Pembroke, N. C.

Dear Mr. Chavis:

Very many thanks for your letter. Here is the check. I am sorry we failed to connect that time.

When you finish up the job you are on, write me that you are through. I will either arrange to see you here or at Hamlin or Raleigh.

I think you could do my little talk in six weeks or so, but I would like to get it done for the people around Pembroke.

You realize I can do nothing myself to offer on-the-farm training. You would have to get it worked out with the State and County Agricultural Education people.

Meanwhile, have you any rough idea how many World War II veterans are back and will be coming back to farm homes around Pembroke?

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

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SOCIAL FORCES

A Scientific Medium of Social Study and Interpretation

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RACE, CULTURAL GROUPS, SOCIAL DIFFERENTIATION

Contributions to this Department will include material of three kinds: (1) original discussion, suggestion, plans, programs, and theories; (2) reports of special projects, working programs, conferences and meetings, and progress in any distinctive aspect of the field; (3) special results of study and research.

MEMORANDUM CONCERNING THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE LARGER MIXED-BLOOD RACIAL ISLANDS OF THE EASTERN UNITED STATES

WILLIAM HARLEN GILBERT, JR.

Library of Congress

PREFATORY STATEMENT

IN MANY of the eastern States of this country there are small pockets of peoples who are scattered here and there in different counties and who are complex mixtures in varying degrees of white, Indian, and Negro blood. These small local groups seem to develop especially where environmental circumstances such as forbidding swamps or inaccessible and barren mountain country favor their growth. Many are located along the tidewater of the Atlantic coast where swamps or islands and peninsulas have protected them and kept alive a portion of the aboriginal blood which greeted the first white settlers on these shores. Others are farther inland in the Piedmont area and are found with their backs up against the wall of the Blue Ridge or the Alleghanies. A few of these groups are to be found on the very top of the Blue Ridge and on the several ridges of the Appalachian Great Valley just beyond.

No satisfactory name has ever been invented to designate as a whole these mixed outcasts from both the white and Negro castes of America. However, their existence can be traced back practically to the beginning of settlement by whites in the various areas in which they occur. The early white settlers called these racial intermediates "free colored" or "free negroes" and considered them frequently as mere squatters rather than as legitimate settlers on the land. The laws were interpreted to the disadvantage of these folk and they were forbidden to testify in court. Acts were passed to prohibit their immigration from other States and they were considered as undesirables since they bridged the racial gap between free whites and slave Negroes.

After the Civil War these mixed folk were still classified as "colored" or as "mulattoes" but they were frequently encouraged to develop their own institutions and schools separate from the Negroes. In recent years there are some indications that the numbers of these intermediate mixed populations are growing rather rapidly and that they may total well over 50,000 persons at the present time.

There is little evidence for the supposition that they are being absorbed to any great extent into either the white or the Negro groups. Their native breeding grounds furnish a seemingly inexhaustible reservoir of population which periodically swarms into cities and industrial areas. The characteristics of illiteracy, poverty, and large families mark them as members of the more backward section of the American nation. Draft boards and the armed forces have found it difficult to classify them racially for military service. As a sizable native minority they certainly deserve more attention than the meager investigations which sociologists and anthropologists have hitherto made of their problems. A recognition of their existence by social scientists can hardly prejudice their social prospects since the vast majority cannot possibly hope to pass as "white" under the present social system. In the hope of enlisting the interest of scientific bodies and foundations in research on these mixed groups, then, the following brief memorandum outline of ten of these mixed "racial islands" is presented.

I. BRASS ANKLES AND ALLIED GROUPS OF SOUTH CAROLINA

LOCATION. These peoples are located mainly on the coastal plain area of the State. They are called by a variety of names, depending upon the county but show a general resemblance to each other. They are termed Brass Ankles (possibly from Spanish "abrasado," toasted brown) in Dorchester, Colleton, Berkeley, Orangeburg, and Charleston counties; Croatans or Cros in Marlboro, Dillon, Marion and Horry counties; Red Bones in Richland; Red Legs in Orangeburg; Turks in Sumter; Buckheads in Bamberg; Marlboro Blues in Chesterfield, and so on. Still other nicknames are "Greeks," "Portugese," Clay-eaters, Yellow-hammers, Summerville Indians or simply "those Yellow People."

NUMBERS. Estimated to run from 5,000 to 10,000 in the State.

ORGANIZATION. Family groups only. In some areas have own schools which are nominally white. Family names are Boone, Braveboy, Bunch, Chavis, Creek, Driggers, Goins, Harmon, Russell, Scott, Shavis, Swett, and Williams.

ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY. Originally lived in isolation in such areas as "Hell-hole Swamp" north of Charleston and in other swampy coast lands. Some were also isolated in the sand hills between the Piedmont and the Coastal Plain where pine barrens predominate. Hunters, fishers, and cultivators.

PHYSIQUE. Indian, white, and Negro types. Physical structure adapted to vigorous out-of-doors life.

IN-MARRIAGE. Tendency to pass over into white group noticeable. In-marriage marked.

RELIGION. Protestant. Attend white churches and also colored.

SCHOOLS. Certain schools, nominally white, are set aside for them. Teachers are difficult to get. Some go to white schools but this does not automatically give equal status.

MILITARY DRAFT. Apparently classed as white.

VOTING AND CIVIL RIGHTS. Have voted for many years. All good Democrats.

RELIEF. WPA period helped to break down isolation of these groups.

CULTURAL PECULIARITIES. No data.

SOCIAL STATUS. Recognized as "Near-white."

HISTORY. Many theories regarding their origin. Numerous Indian tribes were here such as Cusabo, Yamassee, etc. Have only attracted attention of writers recently although known locally at the Civil War period.

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II. CAJANS AND CREOLES OF ALABAMA AND MISSISSIPPI

LOCATION. Cajans in the hilly areas of Washington, Mobile, and Clarke counties as well as adjoining parts of Mississippi. Creoles in Mobile and Baldwin counties around Mobile Bay in Alabama. Name "Cajan" derived from fanciful resemblance to the Louisiana Cajuns or Acadians. Creole name derived from "Creole colored" or "Creole mixed."

NUMBERS. Cajans said to be "several thousands." Creoles may be of similar number.

ORGANIZATION. Cajans have family groups only. Chief family names are Byrd, Carter, Chestang, Johnson, Jones, Rivers, Smith, Sullivan, Terry, and Weaver. Creoles in Mobile had their own fire company and other organizations. Their chief family names (formerly indicated by special designation in the city directory) are Allen, Andry, Balasco, Ballariel, Battiste, Bernoudy, Cassino, Cato, Chastang or Chestang, Collins, Gomez, Hiner, Juzang, Lafargue, Laland, Laurendine, Laurent, Mazangue, Mifflin, Nicholas, Perez, Ponquinette, Pope, Reid, Taylor, and Trenier. The relationships between family names shared by Creoles and Cajans is not clear.

ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY. Cajans are a poor hill people of the wooded country who subsist by lumbering, turpentine extraction, and various odd jobs. Creoles are urban folk in the main and do oyster opening, cigar making, cotton sampling, and various other kinds of artisan work.

PHYSIQUE. Creoles are mixture of Latins, Negroes, etc. The Cajans are mixture of white, Indian, and Negro types.

IN-MARRIAGE. No data.

RELIGION. Creoles are primarily Roman Catholic while the Cajans are mostly Protestants (Baptist and Methodist).

SCHOOLS. Cajans have their own schools through the first 7 grades in the three counties where they live. Creole school situation not known excepting that educational opportunities have been much better than among Cajans.

MILITARY DRAFT STATUS. No data.

VOTING AND CIVIL RIGHTS. No data.

RELIEF. Cajans have been in need of relief.

CULTURAL PECULIARITIES. Cajans have individual patois and magical art. No data concerning Creoles.

SOCIAL STATUS. Position of both groups is apparently between that of whites and Negroes.

HISTORY. Legendary origin of Creoles is explained as due to union of Caribbean pirates with Indians and Negroes. Cajans have a similar tale. Family names shared by both occur in Mobile census lists of 1830 for free colored.

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III. CROATANS OF NORTH CAROLINA, SOUTH CAROLINA, AND VIRGINIA

LOCATION. Center in Robeson County, North Carolina around Lumberton. Are also found in neighboring counties of Bladen, Columbus, Cumberland, Macon, Hoke, and Sampson. In Person County, North Carolina are the allied group sometimes called "Cubans" or "Croatians" and these extend over into Halifax County, Virginia. In South Carolina, Croatans are found in Marlboro, Dillon, Marion, and Horry counties. Origin of the name "Croatan" attributed to "Croatoan" which was connected with Sir Walter Raleigh's Lost Colony. Also these people have been termed "Cherokee Indians of Robeson County" and "Sioux Indians of Lumber River."

NUMBERS. Were said to total 3,640 in 1890 and in Census of 1930 were numbered as over 13,000. Census of 1940 did not enumerate them separately. Apparently they are still increasing at a rapid rate.

ORGANIZATION. Family groups and other institutions. Possess own churches, schools, etc. Family names are Allen, Bennett, Berry, Bridger, Brooks, Brown, Butler, Chapman, Chavis or Chavez, Coleman, Cooper, Dare, Gramme, Harris, Harvie, Howe, Johnson, Jones, Lasie, Little, Locklear, Lowry, Lucas, Martyn, Oxendine, Paine, Patterson, Powell, Sampson, Scott, Smith, Stevens, Taylor, Viccars, White, Willes, Wilkinson, Wood, and Wright.

ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY. Originally dwellers in the swamplands of the Lumber River they became cultivators of cotton, tobacco, and corn over a wide area in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

PHYSIQUE. Measurements by Dr. Carl Seltzer for the Office of Indian Affairs in 1936–1937 of a hundred or more individuals showed a definite minority of marked Indian type. The remainder are white and negroid. They are said to be malaria resistant.

IN-MARRIAGE. Law of the State of North Carolina does not permit intermarriage with Negroes nor, in effect, with whites.

RELIGION. Protestants.

SCHOOLS. Separate and special schools were organized for them in 1885. They now have their own school boards, teachers of their own race, and a special normal school.

MILITARY DRAFT STATUS. No data.

VOTING AND CIVIL RIGHTS. Disfranchised in 1835 they were again allowed to vote after the Civil War. Said to be Democrats.

RELIEF. No data.

CULTURAL PECULIARITIES. Folklore and dialectic traits.

SOCIAL STATUS. Between white and Negro.

HISTORY. First came to the attention of the public during the Civil War due to the exploits of the famous Henry Berry Lowry. They have been derived by various authors from Raleigh's Lost Colony, from Latin sailors shipwrecked in North Carolina, and from Croatia.

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IV. GUINEAS OF WEST VIRGINIA AND MARYLAND

LOCATION. Primarily centered in Barbour and Taylor counties, West Virginia. Also small scattered families in Grant, Preston, Randolph, Tucker, Marion, Monongalia and Braxton counties, West Virginia. Said to have originated in Hampshire County, West Virginia. A few occur in Garrett County, Maryland. Have recently migrated to Canton, Chillicothe, Zanesville, Akron, and Sandusky in Ohio and to Detroit, Michigan. Word "Guinea" said to be an epithet applied to anything of foreign or unknown origin. Other names applied locally are "West Hill" Indians, Maileys, "Cecil" Indians, "G. and B." Indians, and "Guinea niggers."

NUMBERS. Estimated to be from 8,000 to 9,000.

ORGANIZATION. Have own schools and churches in Barbour and Taylor counties. Have an annual fair at Philippi, West Virginia. Family names are Adams, Collins, Croston, Dalton, Dorton, Kennedy, Male (Mayle, Mahle, Mail), Minard (Miner), Newman, Norris, and Prichard.

ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY. Many are coal miners, hill cultivators on sub-marginal lands, truck farmers and dairy farmers, domestic servants, and in cities industrial workers. Original habitat an inaccessible hilly area on a horseshoe bend of the Tygart River, the so-called "Narrows." Live in compact settlements in this area.

PHYSIQUE. Sharp and angular features characteristic. Originally a mixture of white and Indian types to which Negro has been added. Deformities of the limbs and other congenital defects.

IN-MARRIAGE. Has been pronounced in the past. Now said to intermarry with Italians (who are also called "Guineas" in this area).

RELIGION. Mainly "Free Methodists" in Barbour and Taylor counties.

SCHOOLS. Have special schools classed locally as "colored." Considerable tension over attendance at white schools in Taylor County. In Barbour County two schools have been burned down due to troubles.

MILITARY DRAFT STATUS. In Taylor County (Grafton and vicinity) have almost uniformly gone into the white status.

VOTING AND CIVIL RIGHTS. Have voted since organization of the State. Now hold balance of power in Barbour County.

RELIEF. Received during the Depression.

CULTURAL PECULIARITIES. Folklore, annual fair.

SOCIAL STATUS. Courts have pronounced them "colored." Regarded as mulattoes. Do not associate as a rule with Negroes or whites.

HISTORY. Claim English descent from Revolutionary ancestors. Building of Tygart River Dam in 1937 scattered them in Taylor County due to flooding of original settlements.

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V. ISSUES OF VIRGINIA

LOCATION. Amherst and Rockbridge Counties. Name is derived from the term applied to free Negroes prior to the Civil War.

NUMBERS. Said to be around 500 in 1926.

ORGANIZATION. Family groups only. Chief family names are Adcox, Branham, Johns, Redcross, and Willis.

ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY. A highland folk of the Blue Ridge foothills they are mostly renters who cultivate tobacco in shares. Chief stronghold on Tobacco Row Mountain.

PHYSIQUE. A mixture of white, Indian, and Negro types.

IN-MARRIAGE. Has been characteristic of the group.

RELIGION. Protestants. Episcopal mission has been maintained at Bear Mountain for many years. Has a school center for these people.

SCHOOLS. No organization aside from Mission.

MILITARY DRAFT. No data as to color classification.

VOTING AND CIVIL RIGHTS. No data.

RELIEF. No data.

CULTURAL PECULIARITIES. Traditions of Indian descent. Folklore not studied.

SOCIAL STATUS. Said to be below that of whites.

HISTORY. Ancestors of these people were in this area as far back as 1790. Local genealogical records very complete. Issues seem to have attracted little save local notice.

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VI. JACKSON WHITES OF NEW JERSEY AND NEW YORK

LOCATION. Orange and Rockland Counties in New York; Bergen, Morris, and Passaic counties, New Jersey. Name said to be derived from "Jackson and White" which are common surnames. Another derivation is from "Jacks" and "Whites," the terms for Negroes and Caucasians. Still another idea is that Jackson was a man who imported some of the ancestors of these people during the Revolutionary War. In one part of this area are the so-called "Blue-eyed Negroes" who are said to be a race apart from the rest.

NUMBERS. Estimated to be upwards of 5,000.

ORGANIZATION. Family groups only. Family names are Casalony, Cisco, De Groat, De Vries, Mann, Van Dunk, etc.

ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY. These are mainly a hill people of the Ramapo Hills. They raise a few crops at favorable spots and do hunting. Many have migrated to the lowlands and to industrial and mining areas.

PHYSIQUE. In some areas apparently pure white types are found while in others negroid types dominate. In still other areas Indian mixed types seem to predominate. Albinism and deformities have been indicated.

IN-MARRIAGE. Due to environmental limitations this has been marked.

RELIGION. Protestant in the main. Presbyterians have had a mission among these people.

SCHOOLS. In New Jersey white schools have been attended. No data on New York. Tend to concentrate in a few schools.

MILITARY DRAFT STATUS. No data.

VOTING AND CIVIL RIGHTS. No data.

RELIEF. No data.

CULTURAL PECULIARITIES. Dialectic peculiarities, home-made utensils, folklore.

SOCIAL STATUS. Regarded as "colored" by white neighbors.

HISTORY. Traditionally derived from Tuscarora and Munsee Indians, Hessians, English, Negroes from West Indies, etc. First described by Speck in 1911.

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VII. MELUNGEONS OF THE SOUTHERN APPALACHIANS

LOCATION. Original center of dispersal was said to be Newman's Ridge in Hancock County, Tennessee. From thence are said to have spread into other counties such as Cocke, Davidson (Nashville), Franklin, Grundy, Hamilton (Chattanooga), Hawkins, Knox (Knoxville), Marion, Meigs, Morgan, Overton, Rhea, Roane, Sullivan, White, Wilson, Bledsoe, and Van Buren. In southwest Virginia they are known also as Ramps and occur in the counties of Giles, Lee, Russell, Scott, Washington, and Wise. Some are said to have migrated to southeastern Kentucky and a few went to Blounts-

town, Florida, just west of Tallahassee. One or two writers mention that some have gone westward to the Ozarks. The name is said to be derived from the French "Melange," mixed or from the Greek "Melan," black.

NUMBERS. Estimated to run from 5,000 to 10,000. Birthrate high.

ORGANIZATION. Family groups only. Original family names were Collins, Gibson or Gipson, Goins, Mullins or Mellons. Other names mentioned are Bolen, Denhan, Freeman, Gann, Gorvens, Graham, Noel, Piniore, Sexton, Wright.

ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY. Originally pioneer cultivators in the Appalachian Valley lowlands they were said to have been driven to the ridges by the white settlers. Newman's Ridge, Clinch Mountain, Copper Ridge and the Cumberland Range in eastern Tennessee were their chief habitats. Their means of living originally included hunting, fishing, ginseng root gathering, herb gathering, charcoal burning, and in the very earliest times river boat carriage and cattle driving. In recent years they have become lowland tenant farmers, small land owners and coal miners. Basketry, chairmaking, and cooperage also pursued. Dwellings sometimes in sides of cliffs. Wild, unfrequented hill country has often been their chief habitat.

PHYSIQUE. Characteristic range between Indian, white, and occasional negroid types. Stoic endurance of out-of-doors life notable.

IN-MARRIAGE. Considerable intermarriage with whites in recent times. Originally married only within the group.

RELIGION. Presbyterians have had missions among them for many years at Vardy and Sycamore (Sneedville P. O.) in Tennessee. Some are Baptists. Hymns peculiar to mountain folk sung.

SCHOOLS. Attend white schools in Franklin, Marion, and Rhea counties in Tennessee after winning lawsuits regarding their racial classification. In southwest Virginia attend white schools when they go at all. Most are still said to be illiterate.

MILITARY DRAFT STATUS. Illiteracy is said to be a bar to their military service in some places.

VOTING AND CIVIL RIGHTS. Disfranchised in Tennessee by Constitution of 1834. Have voted since the Civil War. Republican in politics.

RELIEF. Were given food and clothing in Virginia during the Depression of the 1930's.

CULTURAL PECULIARITIES. Magic and folklore said to be important. Funeral rites formerly involved building a small house over a fresh grave.

SOCIAL STATUS. Said to approximate the white level in many areas today.

HISTORY. Several theories of origin. Some derive them from Croatans, some from Portuguese, Negro, and English ancestry. Appeared in east Tennessee shortly after the American Revolution. First modern notice under the name "Melungeon" in 1889.

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VIII. MOORS AND NANTICOKES OF DELAWARE AND NEW JERSEY

LOCATION. Nanticokes are around Millsboro in Sussex County, Delaware. Moors are centered in Cheswold, Kent County, Delaware, and at Bridgeton, Cumberland County in southern New Jersey. Name "Moor" traditionally derived from shipwrecked Moorish sailors.

NUMBERS. Moors about 500 in Delaware, Nanticokes about 700.

ORGANIZATION. Nanticokes are incorporated. Moors have no organizations other than the family. Moor family names are Carney or Corney, Carter, Carver, Coker, Dean, Durham, Hansley or Hansor, Hughes, Morgan, Mosley, Munce, Reed, Ridgeway, Sammon and Seeney. Nanticoke family names are Bumberry, Burke, Burton, Clarke, Cormeans, Coursey, Davis, Drain, Hansor, Harmon, Hill, Jackson, Johnson, Kimmey, Layton, Miller, Morris, Moseley, Newton, Norwood, Reed, Ridgeway, Rogers, Sockum, Street, Thomas, Thompson, Walker and Wright.

ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY. Originally both groups may have been swamp hunters and fishers. Now are truck farmers.

PHYSIQUE. Indian, white, and negro types occur. Drooped eyelids inherited in one family strain.

IN-MARRIAGE. Customary.

RELIGION. Protestants. Some sections among Nanticokes have own churches.

SCHOOLS. Moors attend colored schools. Nanticokes have own school with teacher paid by the State.

MILITARY DRAFT STATUS. No data.

VOTING AND CIVIL RIGHTS. No data.

RELIEF. Not needed apparently.

CULTURAL PECULIARITIES. Utensils and implements formerly made locally by the Nanticokes. These people also have their own medicines and folklore.

SOCIAL STATUS. Uncertain.

HISTORY. Nanticokes first noticed about 1889, Moors about 1895.

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IX. RED BONES OF LOUISIANA

LOCATION. The parishes of Natchitoches, Vernon, Calcasieu, Terrebonne, La Fourche, and St. Tammany. The term "Red Bone" is derived from the French Os Rouge, for persons partly of Indian blood. Also called "Houmas" along the Coast and "Sabines" farther west. In Natchitoches are the "Cane River Mulattoes."

NUMBERS. Considerably over 3,000 and with a tendency to rapid increase.

ORGANIZATION. Family groups and settlements. There are a limited number of French family names.

ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY. The coastal groups are farmers, sugar cane workers, cattle raisers, hunters and fishers. Those on the inland prairies are farmers raising corn and other crops. The groups at Slidell north of Lake Pontchartrain seem to merge gradually into the Cajans of southern Mississippi.

PHYSIQUE. Mixed French, Indian, Anglo-Saxon, and Negro.

IN-MARRIAGE. Tendency to marry within the group has long been marked.

RELIGION. Mainly Roman Catholic. Some Baptists.

SCHOOLS. Colored or special.

MILITARY DRAFT. No data on classification by color.

VOTING AND CIVIL RIGHTS. No data.

RELIEF. No data.

CULTURAL PECULIARITIES. Many old Indian customs and traits preserved.

SOCIAL STATUS. Once treated as full social equals by the French, they have long since fallen into the status of Mulattoes in some parts, of Indians in other places.

HISTORY. Derive from early border conflicts of authority and the banishment of mixed race persons from Texas. Intermarriage of French and Indians a marked feature of colonial period.

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X. WESORTS OF SOUTHERN MARYLAND

LOCATION. Most of these people are in Charles and Prince Georges counties, Maryland. A few have migrated to Washington, D. C., Pittsburgh, Baltimore, and the Philadelphia metropolitan area.

NUMBERS. Evidence available seems to indicate from 3,000 to 5,000. They have a high birth rate.

ORGANIZATION. None beyond family groups. Family names are Butler, Harley, Linkins, Mason, Newman, Proctor, Queen, Savoy, Swan, and Thompson.

ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY. Are primarily tenant farmers or small landowners growing tobacco and other crops. Near the city they are truck farmers and in town are artisans, petty traders, and repair men. Originally located near the Zekiah and other swamps many are still excellent fishermen and hunters.

PHYSIQUE. Characteristically white and Indian with occasional marked negroid types. Albinism, short teeth, hereditary deafness and nervous disorders occur in some strains.

IN-MARRIAGE. A marked characteristic for many years.

RELIGION. Mainly Roman Catholics as are the whites and Negroes who adjoin them.

SCHOOLS. Attend Negro schools but in one or two neighborhoods a majority of the school attendance is made up of children of this group.

MILITARY DRAFT STATUS. Some are classified as white, others as Negroes.

VOTING AND CIVIL RIGHTS. Appear to have voted freely for a long period. Formerly Democrats they have tended to be Republicans the last 50 years.

RELIEF. Not much given to them.

CULTURAL PECULIARITIES. Folk medicines and herbalism; animal nicknames; annual festival on August 15th.

SOCIAL STATUS. Somewhat above that of the Negro but below the white.

HISTORY. Appear to be in part descended from several small Indian tribes of colonial times. The name originated about 1890. Romantic legends of Spanish shipwrecked sailors, French-Canadian traders, etc. Family names connected with the "free colored" or "free mulatto" names of 1790.

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CONCLUDING STATEMENT

Besides the major minority groups characterized in this memorandum there are many other mixed Indian peoples in the eastern States no less worthy of notice. A partial list of these follows:

Massachusetts	Mashpee, Pequot, Wampanoag.
Rhode Island	Narragansetts.
Connecticut	Mohegan, Pequot.
New York	Shinnecock, Poosepatuck.
Virginia	Adamstown Indians, Chickahominy, Issues, Mattapony, Nansemond, Pamunkey, Potomac, Rappahanock, Skeetertown Indians, etc.
North Carolina	Machepunga
Alabama	Creeks
Mississippi	Choctaw
Louisiana	Houma, Chitimacha, Choctaw, Coushatta

These groups together with those already sketched in this memorandum would, if thoroughly studied, provide the answer to a number of questions. For one thing they should demonstrate how detribalization affects Indians and what becomes of Indians presumably "freed" from the supervision of the Federal Government or never really under its jurisdiction. These examples would also show how outcast or pariah peoples come into existence and provide a ready parallel to the Untouchables of India and the Eta of Japan.

It is extremely urgent that a program be devised as soon as possible for the assimilation and betterment of the condition of these native American backward minorities. It is true that much good work along these lines has already been done by religious bodies and private agents but the real solution of the problem must await public recognition and government action. A local, State, and Federal policy will have to be developed after the public conscience has been awakened to the need. And this awakening rests on a thorough investigation and widespread public knowledge concerning these groups.

A SELECTED SAMPLE OF ATTITUDES OF LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS TOWARD THE NEGRO: A STUDY IN PUBLIC OPINION

GUS TURBEVILLE AND ROY E. HYDE
Louisiana State University

THIS paper is the result of a test[1] administered to students, 212 in number, at Louisiana State University during the spring of 1945. Now, as never before, interest in attitudes toward the Negro is at a high pitch, and all results bearing on these attitudes are closely examined to detect new trends which may be forthcoming during the present fluid state of affairs.

The purpose of this paper is to throw some light on the opinion of students at a State university in the Deep South as they are concerned with the place of the Negro in our society. It is realized that some of these students will be among the leaders of the new South, and how they feel on the "Negro question" is certainly of importance to forward-thinking individuals.

Inasmuch as this test was taken by only 212 students out of a total enrollment of 2,611 (8 percent sample), and inasmuch as most of the students (185) were female, it would not be fair to say that this test, by its results, gives an absolutely accurate presentation of opinion toward the Negro as found on the campus. However, it is safe to say that the results, even if they are not absolutely accurate, are at least indicative of the attitudes of Louisiana State University students.

[1] The writers are indebted to Dr. Charles S. Johnson for permission to use this test—a test which he has used in studies of his own. See Charles S. Johnson, "Racial Attitudes of College Students," *Publication of the American Sociological Society*, XXVIII (May, 1934), pp. 24–31.

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American Friends Service Committee
Twenty South Twelfth Street
Philadelphia 7, Pennsylvania
Telephone, RITTENHOUSE 9372

7 August 1946

Mr. George Mitchell
Southern Conference for Human Welfare
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

Roy McCorkel has asked me to write to you to tell you how very much he enjoyed and appreciated the opportunity of talking with you about the possibility of extending the work of the American Friends Service Committee in the field of international relations into the Deep South. He would also want me to say, I am sure, that he had a very successful journey. I know that he will keep you informed of any future developments in relation to this visit.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Kimi Nagatani
Secretary to Roy McCorkel

kn

Indian
Education

August 13, 1946

Mr. A. N. Locklear
Tower Club
Ohio State University
Columbia 10, Ohio

Dear Abner:

It was very nice of you to write. Mrs. Mitchell and the children and I had a pleasant but short visit at your home.

We carried a pup tent along for our trip and slept in the woods and in people's backyards. We spent one night in John Bunyan Locklear's backyard. They were very kind to us.

Your mother told me she had some cotton picking lined up for you when you get home.

It would be fine if you can come down to Atlanta. Let me know ahead of time. My office telephone is Walnut 7963, and my home telephone is Dearborn 5961, and my home address is 906 Lullwater Road, NE.

I went to see Ola Lee and met her husband. Ola Lee was in the tobacco shed doing some light work.

Pembroke looks prosperous.

How would it be for you to aim at being the president of Pembroke College some day? To do that you would have to have a year or two or graduate study. Cornell is still the place. I say hang around Pembroke long enough after you finish at Ohio State to pick you out a good wife and then go to Cornell.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Aug 10, 1946.

Dr. George S. Mitchell
Room 432, 63 Auburn Ave, N.E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia.

Dear Dr. Mitchell;

I had a letter from home a couple of days ago and they were telling me of your visit to N.C. I hope you enjoyed it. It too bad it couldn't have been in Sept. when I'm too be at home. If time permits I'll try and get down to Atlanta during Sept. I suppose though they have quite a bit of work already planned out for me when I get home.

Due to a few technicalities Dr. I'm not going to be able to graduate until the Winter Quarter. As you know my schedule the first few quarters here was light and I haven't been taking a heavy schedule since I got back. So you see I'm a little behind. I'll be glad to get out. I am not doing bad this quarter. How was the F.S.A. coming along in N.C.?

Sincerely,
Abner H. Forklear

Indian

August 21, 1946

Dr. Thomas Jesse Jones
Phelps-Stokes Fund
101 Park Avenue
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Jones:

On a recent visit to Pembroke I picked up news of our two Indian students.

Abner Nash Locklear is still at Ohio State. He will finish in Februarywitbh a BS in Agriculture.

Ola Lee Jacobs was married some three months ago to the son of a prosperous Indian farmer. She is now Mrs. Ernest Goings, RFD #1, Box 203, Pembroke, N. C. She has kept her job with the Robeson County Welfare Department as a rural social caseworker.

At the home of Abner's mother I was told that Ola Lee had lately been there to see about a child or two with eyes crossed up. She handles aid to dependent children and old age pension matters. When I saw her she was busy in the shed used on her father-in-law's farm for sorting tobacco. Nice looking veteran for a husband. He will have a good farm some day.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w
P.S. No reply required.

Same letter sent to all Foundations.

Telephone: AShland 4-8578.
Cables: "Stokesfund," Newyork.

August 30, 1946

PHELPS-STOKES FUND
101 PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK 17, N.Y.

Mr. George S. Mitchell
Southern Regional Council
Room 432, 63 Auburn Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

Thank you for your letter of August 21st to Dr. Jones with regard to the two Indian students in whom the Fund has been interested for some years.

As you will note from the enclosed statement, Dr. Jones is now retired and our Director is Dr. Channing H. Tobias. I am sure Dr. Tobias will be very much interested in hearing about these two young people and the progress they are making. I have also shown your letter to Mr. Roy and will bring it to the attention of Dr. Anson Phelps Stokes, our President, the next time he comes to New York.

Sincerely yours,

Rachel L. Huntington

Secretary to Dr. Tobias

Provident Hospital and Training School
426 East Fifty-first Street
CHICAGO 15

Office of the
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

August 30, 1946

Mr. George S. Mitchell
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
Room 432, 63 Auburn Avenue, N.E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

Thanks so much for your letter of August 21 which was forwarded to me from Hampton Institute. I am now Business Administrator of Provident Hospital, having resigned my connections with Hampton Institute on June 1.

I wish to express appreciation to you for your kindness and assistance in handling the affairs of Indian students. President Ralph P. Bridgman will handle the Indian funds in the future. I am relaying your letter to him to acquaint him with the news of the Indian students to whom we have given assistance. I am certain that he will appreciate your keeping him informed as you did me.

With very best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

C. L. Reynolds
Business Administrator

CLR:egm

Chairman
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Executive Secretary
CLARENCE E. PICKETT

American Friends Service Committee

Twenty South Twelfth Street
Philadelphia 7, Pennsylvania
Telephone, RITTENHOUSE 9372

Indian

September 10, 1946

Mr. George S. Mitchell
Southern Regional Council
Room 432
63 Auburn Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear George:

Thanks for sending the additional information about Abner Locklear and Ola Lee Jacobs, now Mrs. Ernest Goings.

I am sure the small amount of money invested in these two people has been well invested.

I am taking the liberty of relaying the contents of your letter on to Mrs. Roosevelt.

Sincerely yours,

Clarence E. Pickett
Executive Secretary

CEP:st

GSM - pers

October 22, 1946

Mr. Abner N. Locklear
Tower Club S-N
Ohio State University
Columbus 10, Ohio

Dear Abner:

I was glad to get your letter of October 19.

I don't know anybody at Cornell, but I am writing to friends in Washington to find out who is the right man at Cornell, and as soon as I hear I will tell you the man to whom you should apply. The day you apply, write me air mail that you are applying, and I will write that guy and tell him you are a good egg and should be let in.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Columbus, Ohio
Oct 19, 1946.

OHIO STATE

Dear Dr. Mitchell,

A line to say hello and to let you know that I'm way on the way on my next to my last Quarter of work. This Quarter is well on the way. I'll be getting out in March.

I was talking to Miss Mark about writing to Cornell for me to see what the chance of doing some graduate work up there was. She was wondering if you knew

some one personally up there. That if you did it might help some.

I got a letter Miss Hadfelter concerning a job on one of their Indian Mission Stations out in Arizona. I haven't answered it yet but I want to try to get some graduate work some place while I'm at it. Because if I quit to go to work I'm afraid I won't be going back to any more school. Your information will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely Yours,

Abner V. Tucker

Indian

October 31, 1946

Dr. Mary Louise Mark
270 South State Street
Westerville, Ohio

Dear Dr. Mark:

I greatly appreciate you letter of October 25. Abner wrote me along the same line about Cornell. I have written to a friend in Washington to find the name of somebody who might help at Cornell, and shall then write that person with due praise of Abner, the while notifying Abner that Abner should push Abner's application through that person.

I will also, thanks to your letter, try to arrange for Cornell to query you direct about Abner. It is encouraging to know that you are ready to stand behind him.

He is a nice boy. I am delighted that he wants to continue and equip himself superbly.

You will be interested to know, if Abner has not told you, that the second girl we sent - Ola Lee Jacobs - finished at Murray State Teachers College and soon picked up a job as a county welfate worker in her home county. She is the case-worker for all the rural Indian families in the county. She has been holding down the job for better than a year now, and her boss-lady speaks warmly of her. She got married five or six months ago to the son of a prosperous Indian farmer. She is now Mrs. Ernest Goings, RFD #1, Box 205, Pembroke, N. C.

Ohio State, and you in particular, did a faithful and imaginative job for these two young people, and tried to for the third one. I shall always be grateful for finding there the understanding that made it possible for Abner and the girl to

get ahead in the world.

I have an occasional link with allong time ago at Ohio State through Mrs. Kincaid, the quite elderly mother of the wife of my boss, Dr. Will W. Alexander. Was not Mr. Kincaid dean of the law school way back yonder somewhere?

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

MARY LOUISE MARK

270 SOUTH STATE STREET WESTERVILLE, OHIO

October 25, 1946

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

Abner recently spent a week end with us. We took him down to our woods in Hocking County, for we wanted him to see a bit of scenic Ohio. While on the trip he asked me to write to you and the other day he called and asked if I had done so. I think he is eager to make arrangements for next year.

He showed me your letter suggesting that he go to Cornell for graduate work. I told him that your reasons are sound and he would be wise to follow your advice, but I don't think he was needing encouragement from me. He had evidently already decided that he would like to enter Cornell next fall and wanted me to help him by writing to Cornell.

I told him that I know no one in the Cornell College of Agriculture and that you probably could advise with some faculty member about him. I think that is why he wanted me to write to you though I'm not sure. It seems to me that he has done very well here and I could give him a general recommendation but I should think

that he ought to advise with some of the professors here who know his work if he wants someone to recommend him as capable of doing graduate work.

Abner expects to graduate in March and then go home to work until fall. He seems to think that he should take steps now to assure that he will be admitted to graduate school. I hope that you will write and give him the necessary steering. If you want me to do something here to help just let me know. I'm back on campus one day a week teaching research methods to candidates for the master's degree in business organization and can plan to look up his record or to interview anyone you may think necessary.

I think you may be proud of Abner. I believe he has a promising future and he plans to carry out the work for which you've trained him. He is quite unselfconscious and has made many friends. The white boys, who bring him out here to call occasionally, are attractive and well bred.

I hope that all goes well with you. I'm in better health than in many years.

Sincerely,

M. L. M.

November 4, 1946

Dr. Mary Louise Mark
270 South State Street
Westerville, Ohio

Dear Dr. Mark:

I was in Washington last week and talked to people I trust about Abner's next school. The chosen place is Wisconsin.

I have written Abner with directions as to how to hook into Wisconsin.

I do hope he will become interested.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

November 5, 1946

Mr. Abner N. Locklear
Tower Club
Ohio State University
Columbus 10, Ohio

Dear Abner:

I was in Washington last week and went to see Jim Maddox. Jim is the smartest agricultural guy I know. He now works for the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. I talked to him about your going to Cornell.

Jim says that would be the wrong place to go. They would teach you more agriculture all right, but apparently that is not what one takes graduate work in agriculture for. You study to be an agricultural economist or an agricultural engineer, or an agronomist, or something quite specialized.

Jim says that you ought to go to the University of Wisconsin. I know nothing about graduate work in agriculture, but I do know Jim Maddox, and I trust him backwards and forwards, and if Jim says Wisconsin I say so too.

He is well acquainted with Professor Ken Parsons at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, Wisconsin. Professor Parsons comes from a central Indiana farm family, has some Quaker upbringing, and is a warmly human, philosophical sort of guy.

Jim thinks you should get entrance to Wisconsin and plan to take a course or two in agronomy or animal industry, plus a good deal of Government and economics, and maybe a little something in teaching methods. If you want to stay at bat long enough, you could get a doctor's degree, but my guess would be that an MS would be sufficient.

If this interests you, I suggest you write Professor Parsons and

make a date when you can go and see him sometime quite soon at Madison. Tell him who you are and what you want to do. Tell him about Jim Maddox.

Thereafter, I would be delighted to write Professor Parsons and urge that he interest himself in getting you accepted for next fall.

I would say the real reason for trying to switch to Wisconsin is to get you into the swim of human action to improve your piece of country. Most scientific agriculturists are whizzes at teaching a man how to draw a fenceline around two hundred acres and make heaven-on-earth inside the fence. Your problem, however, is bigger than that. You have to think of the contents of all the fencelines in a wide stretch of Robeson County and later on, to tell the truth, for the whole stream of counties. In other words, you have to train yourself to be an agricultural statesman rather than a super-proficient farm manager. From what I know, I would think the main place to learn to be an agricultural statesman is Wisconsin.

Talk about this with Dr. Mark, and I believe she will agree.

I hope you will think this is right and will send me word soon that you have made a date with Professor Parsons and are going to see him. Bum up there if you haven't got the money to buy a ticket.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Indian

MARY LOUISE MARK

270 SOUTH STATE STREET WESTERVILLE, OHIO

Nov. 10, 1946

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

Thank you for your two letters. Personally I'm glad to hear that Abner is to go to Wisconsin, perhaps because I have happy memories of Madison and very much like the spirit of things there.

He hasn't called me again and I don't try to call him because the University lines are so crowded as to make calling in difficult. He will be calling me again one of these days I'm sure. I can certainly tell him you've made a good plan for him. He will meet Indian students there - at least more than here in Ohio - and perhaps will see how the Wisconsin Indians live.

Whenever I can help just let me know

Sincerely,

Mary Louise Mark

Indian

November 18, 1946

Miss Katharine E. Gladfelter
Assistant Secretary, Unit of Educational and Medical Work
Board of National Missions of the Presbyterian Church
156 Fifth Avenue
New York 10, N. Y.

Dear Miss Gladfelter:

I am sorry that Abner did not answer about the job you were kind enough to tell him of.

He has been trying to figure out whether to go on for graduate work or not. I have been urging him to go to Wisconsin for one more year after he finishes at Ohio State in March.

He let me know that you had told him of this job. Someday I will get Abner out behind the barn and explain to him about amenities.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Board of National Missions
of the Presbyterian Church in the
United States of America
156 Fifth Avenue, New York 10, N.Y.

November 12, 1946

My dear Mr. Mitchell:

Since I asked you for Abner Locklear's address so we might write him about a possible agricultural opening at our Ganado Mission (on the Navajo reservation), I thought you would be interested to know that he never replied to my letter. Perhaps he is a poor correspondent or, perhaps the salary we quoted was too low. Whatever the reason, we cannot help wishing that as a former scholarship recipient, he had replied. This comment sounds more critical than I mean it to be. As I know you will understand, one of our continuing problems with all students who come from somewhat limited backgrounds is to give experience in the social and professional amenities as well as academic training!

Very sincerely yours,

Katharine E. Gladfelter

Katharine E. Gladfelter
Assistant Secretary, Unit of
Educational and Medical Work

Mr. George S. Mitchell
Southern Regional Council, Inc.
Room 432
63 Auburn Avenue, N.E.
Atlanta 3, Ga.
KEG:oer

Dictated by Miss Gladfelter
but signed in her absence.

OHIO STATE

Columbus 10, Ohio
Nov 27, 1946.

Mr. George S. Mitchell
Room 432.
63 Auburn Ave, N.E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia.

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

As you know this being Thanksgiving we have a little vacation, and a little spare time so decided to answer your letter.

I wrote to Prof. Parson up at Madison a few days ago but haven't heard from him as yet.

No doubt he is busy these days and haven't had time to answer. When I hear from him I'll let you know. Also answered Miss Gladfelter letter. Sorrow to not have answered before but I wanted to know something definite before I answered.

The Marks' are getting along fine. I call out every now and then to see how they are coming along. It seems that every thing in N.C. is fine. Do you think you will be getting up that way over Christmas vacation?

Hope to see you sometime in the near future.

Sincerely
Abner N. Lockhart

Indian

December 27, 1946

Mr. Abner N. Locklear
Rt. 2 - Box 60
Maxton, North Carolina

Dear Abner:

Many thanks for your letter from home.

When do you graduate? I would like to be there. Of course, I don't know whether I can or not. I also hope your mother will be there.

Do get after the man at Wisconsin. You really should go to see him sooner than April. I would go to see him in mid-January if I were you. So many people will be trying to get in, it will help you to start early. Meanwhile, I have written Professor Parsons to tell him you are a good egg.

Please scatter my affection around Pembroke.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Mayton, N.C.
Dec 22, 1946.

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

At present I'm home for the Christmas Hollidays and every thing up in N.C. seems to be coming along fine.

We got two weeks off for Christmas vacation. Must be back by Jan 6. Of course school starts on a Friday which will be the 3rd of Jan. but I'm not going to be there the first day.

I wrote Prof. Parson before I left Ohio and heard from him also. He told me all about the set up at Madison and, of course, asked me to come up some time. I decided that I would

go up in april after graduation and look things over. I don't know just what the requirements for their graduate work are but if my under-graduate work is satisfactory to fill their requirements I will start next fall. If I'm not able to get in up there I guess I'll be trying to get a job in april.

From the looks of things at present christmas in these parts will be rather dull. I wonder what its going to be like with you. Fine I hope.

The Mark sisters are getting along fine at present. They always ask about you. Until later

Bye and merry Christmas,

Sincerely,

Lenore N. Tucklear

Indian

November 18, 1946

Mr. Abner Locklear
Tower Club
Ohio State University
Columbus, Ohio

Dear Abner:

If you have not answered Miss Katharine Gladfelter's letter about an opening on the Navajo reservation, you should answer.

I am quite persuaded that Wisconsin is the right thing for you to do, so presumably your answer to Miss Gladfelter would be that you have decided to go on for graduate study.

Anyway, she wrote me that she never had heard from you about it.

Yours for Pembroke!

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

Indian

December 27, 1946

Professor Ken Parsons
University of Wisconsin
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Professor Parsons:

My North Carolina friend, Abner Nash Locklear, now at Ohio State University, tells me that he wrote you, and you were good enough to reply to him about his possibilities for taking graduate work at the University of Wisconsin.

I have written Abner and urged him to go up to see you in the quite near future. His own plan was to wait until he finished at Ohio State in March and to go up in April for an interview about beginning work next fall.

I should like for you to know something of Mr. Locklear's background. In southern North Carolina, near the South Carolina line, in Robeson County, there is a community of some fifteen thousand people of mixed, and mainly Indian, ancestry. The best guess as to who their Indian forefathers were is something about the tag ends of seven or eight local tribes who took refuge in the swamps of the Lumber River. Clearly, at some point, a certain amount of Negro blood was admixed, probably from run away slaves. White blood too. The mixture was long ago and has not continued.

As the lands around the swamps were cleared, the Indian families were used as sharecroppers on the heathen contract of "the thirds". Fifteen years ago a very few of the families had got up into land ownership, most were still croppers. The Farm Security Administration put in a resettlement project called Pembroke Farms. What the project did and what the

general loan program did was effective in greatly increasing Indian land ownership, but half of the people are still tenants or croppers, I should think. The non-Indian-owned land is held in chains of big farms by descendants of the local Scotch immigrants. Plantation credit and all the rest.

Some of us in Farm Security wanted to educate an Indian boy and an Indian girl, so they could later take on the management of the project. With great contrivance, and with quite small but regular contributions from the Phelps-Stokes Fund, the trustees of Hampton Institute, the Board of National Missions of the Presbyterian Church, and the American Friends Service Committee, we got a girl through Kentucky State Teachers College in Murray and this young man, Abner Nash Locklear, into his junior year at Ohio State. Then the war came on. Abner finishes in March at Ohio State, this time with GI rather than foundation help.

The boy has done a pretty good job, I think. His father is dead, his mother is tenant on perhaps fifteen acres, and the large family was reared on sure-enough poverty. Abner had only indifferent high school training, and the jump to Ohio State was severe. He struggled along on C's and D's with an occasional B, but later got up to B's with an occasional C. I have not seen him since his long stay in the Pacific, but before that he was steadygoing and of good judgment. I should think the war would have helped - it is a good sign that he went straight on back to Ohio State.

The girl, incidentally, is now doing rural family social case work for her County Government within the Indian community. Young Locklear will be the first man of his group with a thorough agricultural training. I suppose he will get a job as an assistant county agent or FSA supervisor for the first years, but his real chance is to be a Moses for his people.

That Indian community has two great assets: The habit of hard and skillful work at agriculture, and the habit of democratic meeting to discuss problems. The land is good. Good land and these two habits and intelligent leadership could make something pretty good.

Sincerely,

George S. Mitchell

GSM:w

March 10, 1947

Mr. Abner Nash Locklear
The Tower Club
Ohio State University
Columbus, Ohio

Dear Abner:

It is a very great pleasure to receive the announcement of your coming graduation.

I do wish I could be there, and I earnestly hope you are making arrangements by which your Mother can be there.

You are to be stoutly praised for pushing this through. Three years of it before the war then three years in the army and now with another long year you are done. Many and many a less determined man would have stopped long back.

Now the next pull is a year or two at Wisconsin. When you are through with that I will let you be.

By way of a graduation present I am subscribing in your name to the New Republic. They will write you for a correct address to which to send it.

Sincerely,

GSM/lg

George S. Mitchell

March 10, 1947

Mrs. Nettie B. Locklear
RFD, Vicinity Prospect School
Pembroke, N. C.

Dear Mrs. Locklear:

This morning's mail brought me the announcement of Abner's graduation March 14th.

You know I am delighted that he is finishing. It has been a long pull for him and he deserves a great deal of praise for sticking to it.

It has meant sacrifices for you and the others too. Many a time I am sure you found it hard to balance whether this or that sum of money that Abner needed should go to him or should stay at home to help the rest of the family. And many a day too I know you have missed him at home and in the fields.

What he has done already is of credit to you and to all the people around Pembroke. Now if he will go on and take a year or two of graduate work he will be one of the best trained agriculture people in North Carolina and a great lifetime of usefulness to his people will be opened before him.

My affection to all of you in these days when you have at last the pride of Abner's graduation.

Sincerely,

GSM/lg

George S. Mitchell

5-1-47

FOR FILE - INDIAN

Address

Abner Nash Locklear:

R. 4, Box 60
Maxton, N. C.

Abner N. Lecklear

The Senior Class

of

Ohio State University

announces its

Commencement Exercises

Friday afternoon, March fourteenth

Nineteen Hundred Forty Seven

at two o'clock

Men's Gymnasium

UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

Dear Joyce

Could you send her a copy of the letter that sets up this year's work arrangements?

And any info you have on who may not have sent?

Or get Mrs. Brouson busy on it?

I don't know anything about a list for next year.

If Mrs. Green hasn't one (& she wrote me

a while ago that he
[illegible] she'll [illegible] have to
take what she can find.
Put her trees in Thy-on
N.C. a couple of
years.

Enclosed 15.00 - for
which many thanks.

The trouble was
the PEA switched from
periods from 1-15 to
7-23! Leave will come OK.

Sorry to give you this
one, but do write here
something soon.

Lou.

Dr. Thomas Jesse Jones

Dear Dr. Jones:

~~Sometime in the fall~~

You will recall in September you had correspondence with Dr. Mitchell about a scholarship fund for Miss Ola Lee Jacobs, and Indian student from Pembroke, N. C., who is attending Murray State College in Kentucky.

In your last letter you indicated that you would recommend to your Committee that $80.00 be granted to Miss Jacobs as a contribution toward the sum required to complete her education. You said the matter would be discussed at your annual meeting about the middle of November.

It would be greatly appreciated if you would let us know the decision of the Committee as to whether or not Miss Jacobs ~~will~~ is to be granted this money. I have a letter from her saying that her funds are running short.

Dr. Mitchell asked me to write you about this matter since he is extremely busy these days. As you probably know he is no longer with this Agency.

Sincerely,

Joyce R. Kelly
Former secy. to Dr. Mitchell

Form FSA 2
(11-4-40)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FARM SECURITY ADMINISTRATION
OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

MEMORANDUM

Date 3/9

To: Gem

FROM: jk

SUBJECT:

Hooray – it worked!
I've sent the check on down to Murray State and written Ola Lee to that effect. Hope she can raise the rest she will need from her parents. With this she shouldn't need more than $120.

☐ For your information. ☐ For your OK. ☐ For reply (your signature).
☐ For action as indicated. ☐ For file. ☐ For reply (my signature).
☐ See me.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16—9035

(over)

Here are some other
odds & ends.

Joyce

The two checks replace the
ones I tore up.

2/10/45
R#1 Box 237
Pembroke, N.C.

Mr George S. Mitchell
Atlanta, Ga

Dear Sir;
I recieved the material you sent me and I sure was glad to get it. I have distributed it to several of my friends and seemed to be very much pleased at it. I would have been glad to have met you at the College last Summer but I had been told that you were in Europe at that time, therefore came to the conclusion that it was your brother who was to be there. I recieved a letter from Joe some time ago and told me about you and where you were. I have tried to get Joe home for a few days or to get him discharged so he could get some of the kinks out of "Pembroke Farms" but it seems impossible at this time. Of course Mr Mitchell, you know more about the condition of "Pembroke Farms" than I do but they are so inconsistant in dealing with the project that sometimes I think it is just a Government Racket. There are very few promises F.S.A. has kept

with the people on the Farms. It is a down right shame the way the project is being carried out, but I am going to still be fighting untill they do fair with those boys. I guess you knew that Cloyd Chavis, Bison Lathan and Foster Thompson has been moved from the farms but they have really made money since they left there and has not worked near so hard. Now F.S.A. is trying to sell the Land that has not been taken up for 3 or 4 times what they paid for it and will not sell the boys none of the Land without they cancel their "Lease Purchase Contract", that, they will never do. I was with them in a meeting last night and they sure would love to see you. Since you are not with F.S.A. it seems like you could drop around and see all the boys or most of them. Say, you ought to see and know how "Red Banks" is doing. They declared over a dividend of $19,000.00 this past year and still has not finished selling the crop.

I have said so much I had better close for this time. All the boys and myself would be glad to see you

Rockville Yours

James E. Chavis

Pembroke NC
RF#1 Box 237

Dear Doc:

I'll try to fill this application out from memory for I didn't keep any records of the trip.

By the way, our job is about over here at Ft. Bragg, and I believe I'll be through by the middle of May. I'd like very much to put the on the farm training program into effect here.

Mr Green said he would help all he could. So that will be one angle of the situation as we dont have an agriculture teacher here.

Saw A.C. the other evening, sure was glad that you liked the horn. We can find lots of those here in Robeson you know.

When did you hear from Joe? Sure would like to see him.

How is the weather in Atlanta now. Its plenty hot

here and folks really are farming. The majority of them are through selling tobacco and really are having nice seasons on it ~~to~~.

Let me know about the job and I'll go down to Atlanta to get the details at any time that it will convienc you. Why dont you come around some time to see us all, you're our number One man you know.

Yours Truly

J. R. Davis

CITIZENSHIP COMMITTEE

National Education Association, 1201 Sixteenth Street, N. W., Washington 6, D. C.

THIRD NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CITIZENSHIP, May 16-19, 1948

April 12, 1948

26 - National Conf. on Citizenship, 1948

RECEIVED
APR 14 1948
Southern Regional Council

Southern Regional Council, Inc.
Room 432, 63 Auburn Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Gentlemen:

"Freedom is everybody's business." The job of developing citizens who recognize and carry out the rights and responsibilities of our American freedom is America's chief business.

The United States Department of Justice is cooperating with the National Education Association's Citizenship Committee and its Commission for the Defense of Democracy through Education to convoke the Third National Conference on Citizenship in Washington, D. C., May 16 - 19, 1948. You will be interested in the enclosed leaflet which points out the special emphases and objectives of the conference this year. We are confident you will want to have your organization strongly represented.

Under separate cover we are sending you a copy of the report of the Second National Conference on Citizenship. With this letter we are enclosing a blank for your convenience in designating delegates from your organization for the Third Conference. We would be very happy to have you head that delegation and to have you include in second place the chairman of your citizenship committee or of any committee that may correspond to that designation.

Please fill out the enclosed blank and return it along with any other information or suggestions you may have. Since we are working under great pressure in setting up the conference in so short a time, we shall appreciate this help by the earliest possible mail.

Sincerely yours,

Earle T. Hawkins

Earle T. Hawkins

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

EARLE T. HAWKINS, *Chairman*, Towson, Maryland
LAURENTINE B. COLLINS, Detroit, Michigan
JOANNA Z. CONNELL, Weymouth, Massachusetts
EVAN E. EVANS, Winfield, Kansas
ROBERT F. WILLIAMS, Richmond, Virginia
RICHARD B. KENNAN, NEA headquarters contact

THIRD NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CITIZENSHIP
May 16-19, 1948

NOTE: Limitation of Number of Delegates

Space and housing necessitate a ceiling of 1,000 delegates. Therefore, a limitation of three delegates from each organization has been set, in order that all organizations wishing to participate may do so. Delegates should be selected on the basis of interest, experience, and ability. Whenever possible, the president (or ranking officer) and the chairman of the citizenship committee (or of any committee that corresponds to that designation) should be chosen.

Information and details about registration will be sent to each delegate.

DELEGATES TO BE INVITED TO THIRD NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CITIZENSHIP

Representing (organization) _____

	Name	Position	Address
1.	_____	_____	_____
	* Interest group _____		_____
			_____
2.	_____	_____	_____
	Interest group _____		_____
			_____
3.	_____	_____	_____
	Interest group _____		_____
			_____

* Interest groups
1. Education
2. Church
3. Community organizations
4. Home
5. Youth organizations
6. Occupational organizations
7. Patriotic, veterans and special citizenship organizations
8. Press, radio and motion pictures

(Signed) _____

(Title) _____

(Address) _____

Please return immediately to
NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CITIZENSHIP
Department of Justice Building
Washington 25, D. C.
to Judge Carl B. Hyatt

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 11, 1948

My dear Mr. Attorney General:

It is a genuine pleasure to extend my heartfelt greetings and sincerest wishes to all those participating in the Third National Conference on Citizenship -- a conference so timely and so important.

There is no more precious possession today than United States citizenship. A nation is no stronger than its citizenry. With many problems facing us daily in this perplexing and trying era, it is vital that we have a unity of purpose -- to the end that freedom, justice, and opportunity, good will and happiness may be assured ourselves and peoples everywhere.

Efforts to make and keep America strong are all-important to our Nation's welfare. Organizations that the conference represents are our country's life lines -- stimulating the best and adding strength to American living. They have tremendous influence and can make a significant contribution to the cause of better citizenship and good government.

I feel sure that the deliberations of the conference on the rights and responsibilities of citizenship will have a constructive and lasting effect on the future of our beloved country.

Very sincerely yours,

Harry Truman

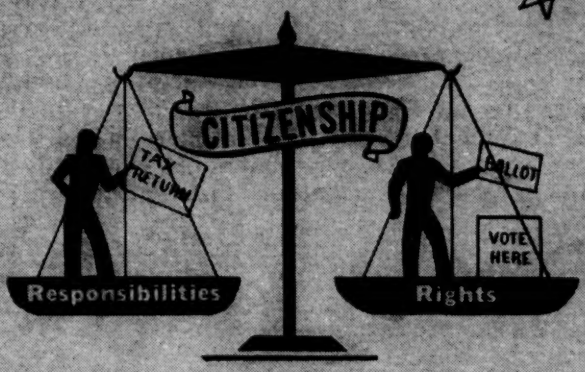
The Honorable
The Attorney General,
Washington, D. C.

THIRD NATIONAL CONFERENCE *on* "CITIZENSHIP"

TO BE HELD IN

WASHINGTON, D. C.

MAY 16-19, 1948



SPONSORED BY

The United States Department of Justice

AND

The National Education Association

Challenge

Put democracy's "creed into deed!"

Build together tomorrow's world!

Accept responsibilities that are the counterbalance against which rights must be weighed.

This challenge confronts not only individuals but organizations, not only single groups but all the groups that might work together toward the mutual goal: alert, enlightened, conscientious, and progressive citizens with both courage to tackle and ability to solve the perilous problems of today.

History

The series of national citizenship conferences that began in Philadelphia, May 17–18, 1946, grew out of the effort of the Citizenship Committee of the National Education Association to discover what was being done in the field of citizenship and to cooperate with other organizations working in the same area. Both the First Conference in Philadelphia and the Second Conference in Boston, May 8–10, 1947, had the advice and cooperation of the United States Department of Justice, under the administration of Hon. Tom C. Clark, Attorney General. In the Third Conference the Department of Justice has become cosponsor with the Association.

Objectives in Brief

To reexamine the functions and duties of American citizenship in today's world.

To assist in the development of more dynamic procedures for making citizenship more effective.

To indicate the ways and means by which various organizations may contribute concretely to the development of citizenship.

Theme

Responsibilities and rights of citizenship will be discussed on three fronts:

1. The world-minded American citizen.
2. Basic human rights and attendant responsibilities.
3. Citizenship in action in the local community.

Varying from the pattern of previous years where conferees have discussed the contributions of special-interest groups to citizenship, this year all groups will consider simultaneously the same problems, in an effort to arrive at some general agreements and devise a program of joint action.

Honorary Chairmanship

The Hon. Charles Evans Hughes, former Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court, who served as Honorary Chairman for the Second National Conference, will again serve in that capacity for the Third National Conference.

Special Features

"I Am an American Day," Sunday, May 16, 1948, will be observed by a gigantic outdoor celebration in the Sylvan Theater, Washington Monument Grounds. The local "I Am an American Day" Committee will be in charge of the arrangements. However, the theme of the Conference will highlight the program, and the Conference delegates will be guests of honor.

America's Town Meeting of the Air will move to Washington for its regular broadcast on Tuesday evening, May 18. Outstanding speakers will present the "pros" and "cons" of How Should Democracy Deal With Groups that Aim to Destroy Democracy.

Exhibits

The Great Hall of the Department of Justice will be used to exhibit citizenship materials. The exhibit will be open to delegates on Sunday from 3 to 6 p. m., and on Monday and Tuesday from 9 a. m. to 6 p. m.

Program

In addition to the special features outlined above, the program will include addresses by nationally known authorities on the general theme of the Conference and the specific discussion topics.

Luncheon and dinner meetings will give special-interest groups opportunity for round-table discussion and also serve as media for presenting "thumbnail" reports of discussion-group progress.

Limitation on Number of Delegates

Space and housing conditions necessitate a ceiling of 1,000 delegates. Therefore a *limitation of three delegates from each organization has been set*, in order that all organizations wishing to participate may do so. Delegates should be selected on the basis of interest, experience, and ability. Wherever possible, the president (or ranking officer) and the chairman of the citizenship committee (or of any committee that corresponds to that designation) should be chosen.

Headquarters and Registration

The Great Hall of the Department of Justice will be the Conference Headquarters, where registration and information desks will be located. The registration fee of $3 covers not only the regular registration fee but also the luncheon on Monday. The price of the dinner on Monday evening is $5, and that of the luncheon on Tuesday $3. The dinner and luncheon meetings are integral parts of the program, and delegates should plan to attend all three, as keynote speeches for the discussion groups and general announcements will be made at these meetings.

Sponsorship

National Education Association:

Citizenship Committee.

Advisory Committee on the Third National Conference on Citizenship.

National Commission for the Defense of Democracy Through Education.

Department of Justice:

The Attorney General's Advisory Committee on Citizenship.

All communications relating to the Third National Conference should be addressed to:

Judge CARL B. HYATT
The Third National Conference on Citizenship
United States Department of Justice
Washington 25, D. C.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 780744

Third National Conference on Citizenship
Washington, D. C., May 16-19, 1948

FIRST THUMBNAIL REPORTS OF DISCUSSION GROUPS

by
Ruth Cunningham
Associate Professor, Teachers College, Columbia University

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Third National Conference on Citizenship:

This is the first report to you from you, by way of your reports chairmen, concerning the work of the discussion groups this afternoon.

As you know, the topic was the "World-minded American Citizen." We discussed two kinds of things this afternoon; one deals with the "what", and the other with the "how." What kind of a person is a world-minded citizen? How can we achieve a world-minded citizenry?

First, for the "what." We seem to agree, in all of our groups, that a good American citizen must be a world-minded citizen. Whenever we talk of the duties and privileges of citizenship, we mean not only national citizenship, but international citizenship as well; moreover, as we develop good international citizens, we are making good Americans.

As one group put it, we believe world education involves (1) understanding the realities of war; (2) an understanding toward what technology is leading us; (3) understanding our economic, social and cultural interdependence. But we must recognize that there is a range of thinking of what we mean by world-mindedness from mere awareness, to responsible action. It is obvious we need more and clear er thinking as to what we mean when we say "world-mindedness." Each citizen mus ask "Where am I on the scale?" What do we want to be when we say we want to be "world-minded"? What is a world-minded citizen? Let's recognize it is not easy for us to define our positions. It is going to take some tough thinking to know what we want, what we mean. We are going to have to see ourselves as others see u we are going to have to understand the thought process of others. But no matter how tough the job may be, we seem to agree, in our small groups, that it is one w

must face if we are to be world-minded citizens.

We seem to agree, in general, that the world-minded citizen must think in bigger terms than mere nationalism. As Americans, as world citizens, we must quit being merely those who pat themselves on the back; we have to be more than people who pull themselves up by their own boot straps; we have to start extending our hands and lifting our eyes (and I dare anybody to mix more metaphors in one sentence).

But maybe the "how" of developing world-mindedness is even more important than the "what." We may know what we want, but how are we going to get that way? And I think it was encouraging, that in our groups this afternoon, there were more comments on the "how" than on the "what."

Job No. 1 it seems, in the minds of all people in all groups, taking priority in time and importance, is ridding ourselves of fear--fear of change, fear that the other fellow will get ahead of us, fear that leads to witch hunting, fear that leads to narrow nationalism, fear that leads to hate, fear that leads to war. And no less important, perhaps, we must rid ourselves of fear that leads to apathy, to an idea that nothing matters. We must rid ourselves of the fear that leads to an attitude that it isn't worth the struggle. Fear, by whatever name, is, in our modern world, death in disguise. Job No. 1, then, is ridding ourselves of fear.

Job No. 2, as indicated by all the groups meeting this afternoon, is development of better means to communication. First, we need to communicate our values. Even more important, perhaps, we need to find means to achieve values jointly and cooperatively,--democratically. We need to get together, as nations, in setting standards of what we mean by liberty and justice. We need to think together. As one group put it, "We are sunk before we start if we think, as Americans, that

we know all the answers and are to 'convert' the rest of the world." Communication is a two-way street. We, as Americans, must understand the world, and we want the world to understand us.

We would like other nations to know about our Constitution, and other papers that are basic to American life. We would like them to know our customs and ideals. We would like to know more about the basic ideas and ideals of others. We must know more about the basic ideas and ideals of others, if there is to be joint thinking. Beyond this, there is a need to know each other as people. We learn by trying, by living, by belonging--let's get together and try it. Let's give youth a chance to be active citizens and to take responsibility in our society. Let's recognize there must be ways for all of us to do things together, to live together.

One way to better human relations is to provide programs of exchange, -- exchange of teachers, members of youth groups, specialists in many fields; exchange of ideas; exchange of correspondence; exchange of films, of radio programs, of newspapers. But to say it again, all groups felt it to be most important that we learn to know each other as people. Let's make sure that everyone has a chance to be a part, to belong to an expanding group. Only in this way, working together belonging together, can we achieve a common understanding.

One group underlined this as important, "Let's get it straight as we communicate. We can't let a distorted press or radio make up our minds for us. We must know fact as it is. Knowing fact should be a major emphasis in programs of citizenship."

Citizenship isn't based on pure intellect alone, however. We need to exploit symbols. We need to have a feeling of "oneness." We need to have a feeling of "we-ness" in our relations, as well as an understanding of fact.

A third problem, emphasized by all groups, had to do with the need to start at home in developing world mindedness. Let's work in our own backyards. We must exchange ideas among organizations such as those represented here. We must organize action to achieve basic human rights. We must eliminate discrimination. We must learn to solve our group relations within our own communities, if we are to be world minded citizens.

We have available to us at home many avenues. We have places to work; in our schools we can provide equal opportunity if we try. We must provide this equal opportunity. We must provide an opportunity for youngsters in schools to learn to face issues and learn how to handle them. In our communities, through women's clubs, PTA's, labor groups and other citizens' groups, we must learn to face our problems. And as national citizens we must learn to support the UN and UNESCO.

Particularly do we need agencies for mass communication. It seemed to several groups that our current agencies of mass communication have not adequately accepted their responsibility.

As we work toward world-mindedness, we need to work both from the top down and from the bottom up. The urgency of events calls for courageous leadership, and for the discovery of new leaders. It calls, too, for mass movements of groups of citizens.

Let's remember this: The laboratory for developing world mindedness is our own home town. We can start at home and make it work. Moreover, let's be sure that we do some down-to-earth thinking, not indulging in mere enthusiasm. Let's make sense. Let's be understandable, and let's use words that people understand.

"Citizenship must include all of us," say most of the groups. Citizenship education is not merely for children and youth. It is for you, for me, for our

neighbors. It is not just kid stuff, but must be the stuff of living for all of us. No, it is not just kid stuff, but let us recognize that prejudices are often learned very early and, therefore, we will need to give some special emphasis to education for our citizens who are growing up. They are our hope for the future.

There was some discussion, in several groups, concerning gifts and relief to people in underprivileged countries. "It is important now," they say, "It is a stopgap. But for the long-term job, after we meet the immediate emergencies, let's remember that gifts will not be as important as reciprocal thinking."

Let's recognize too, that in many respects we are doing a pretty important job now. Much is now going on that is significant. Let's get together and exchange our experience and coordinate our efforts. "If we really want to do it, we can do it," is the feeling of many groups. As one group put it, "There are no barriers to world-mindedness that education can't solve" through developing better information, attitudes, and dignity of mind.

"Let's not stop with this conference," say many groups. "This is only a beginning." Each person at this conference becomes a catalytic agent in his organization and area of work.

One group reports a quotation from a citizen: "My wife, she got her citizenship papers. She is so happy she is a-crying." Can we say the same? Can we create this attitude for world-mindedness? Can we be so happy we are world-minded that we are "a-crying"?

Perhaps the gist of it is this: We have taken a tuck in time; we have put a pleat in space; if we are to live comfortably in this tight world, we must let out the old seams of our thinking. Thank you. (Applause)

Third National Conference on Citizenship
Washington, D. C., May 16-19, 1948

SECOND THUMBNAIL REPORTS OF DISCUSSION GROUPS
by
Ruth Cunningham
Associate Professor, Teachers College, Columbia University

The luncheon session of the Third National Conference on Citizenship was held in the Hall of Nations, Washington Hotel, Washington, D. C., at twelve-fifteen o'clock, Tuesday, May 18, 1948, Miss Katharine F. Lenroot, Chief, United States Children's Bureau, presiding. (Luncheon was served.)

CHAIRMAN LENROOT: We have this afternoon the opportunity to review what the conference has achieved so far and to forecast the remainder of the discussions. This conference certainly has been organized in a way to permit maximum participation of all the members.

Last evening you had reports on the characteristics and qualities required for a world-minded American citizen. A week or two ago, at the opening meeting of the National Health Assembly, Dr. Brock Chisholm, the Executive Secretary of the Interim Commission of the World Health Organization, said that there were only a few national citizens, and that what the world required today was world citizens. He defined national citizens and world citizens as people who had equal concern for all members of the community.

I know you had very fine reports from Dr. Cunningham last night of your discussions of how to create world-minded citizens, and today she is going to give us some second thumb-nail reports on the discussions you have had of basic human rights and attendant responsibilities. As you know, Dr. Cunningham is Associate Professor, Teachers College, Columbia University. The note that was given me by the conference management adds this after her name: "She did a wonderful job on her first report at the dinner last evening."

Dr. Cunningham. (Applause)

DR. RUTH CUNNINGHAM: Ladies and Gentlemen of the Third National Conference on Citizenship: This is the second report to you from you, by way of your reports chairmen, concerning the work of the group discussions this morning. As you

know, the topic was "Basic Human Rights and Attendant Responsibilities."

Yesterday, in discussing world-mindedness, you said that one place to start was in our own back yards. Today we have been examining these back yards--our communities, our nation--and have found them not wholly problem-free. Some of the problems we have to face, you say, are these: Too often we talk a nice language while we practice a dirty creed, a creed of intolerance and discrimination. We have in this country, whether we like to admit it or not, both first-class and second-class citizens. We shall never be truly a democracy as long as we force a second-class citizenship on some. No citizen can be truly first class until all are first class. Democracy is not worthy of the name unless it is a democracy for everyone, with equal rights, equal privileges, equal responsibilities for all.

The fault, you say, is not always in one direction; both minorities and majorities contribute to this difficulty, and both must mend their fences.

One group has given us a yardstick for measuring the person who is a citizen of this country, a first-class citizen: A measure of freedom and democracy is the extent to which the individual is able to make his maximum contribution through his own initiative.

Another group says it should always be kept in mind that equality of opportunity does not mean identity. Moreover, we need to recognize that our differences are perhaps less regional than they are differences of value patterns, regardless of geography. As one group said, the interest in racial discrimination was so keen that most of the time was devoted to it, but the difference of viewpoint was definitely not regional.

Not only must we be willing to face the problems, but, further, we must be willing to face the facts of what we must do about them. These are your suggestions:

The Federal Government can help. The major function of the Federal Government, you say, is in assuring human rights in ways such as providing money to

assist in equalization, political equality, adequate education for all, health, and alleviation of any group which is suffering from oppression. The Government must set standards and patterns of action.

It is important that we have strong national leadership and national action, but national action can't stand unless it has support from state and local organizations and individuals, and that means you and me.

Most groups say, "We support by word and by action the report of the President's Committee on Civil Rights." However, there are some who do not agree. One group took a vote which came out twelve to five. In other words, it seems that we have a lot of hard, tough thinking to do if we are to know where we stand on this issue.

Another group decided that the Committee on Civil Rights ought to have added to it some other points. These are the ones they would like to have added: (1) the right to belong to the national group as a useful and productive member, and to live out one's days free from fear of want; (2) the right to listen; and (3) equality of opportunity, socially, politically, economically, educationally, and spiritually for everyone in our country.

Many groups discussed the relative merits of legislation or education. Should we try to solve our problems by legislation or by education? It isn't "either or," it seems, but rather, "both and".

Our laws are improving, according to many groups. Recent Supreme Court decisions are helping implement citizenship, economic and social rights. But laws that die in the dust of law books are no laws at all. When we have the laws, it is our job as citizens to see that they are enforced.

Perhaps there is a greater force than legislation in education, and perhaps there is a greater force than either legislation or education in participation. Participation, you say, is the keynote in the development of citizenship education for the protection and extension of human rights. You cannot talk people

into it; you have to work them into it. And by that I think this group meant we need to work together until we are all in it.

A basic method of attaining democracy is the method of pooled judgment. We believe a major method in resolving our more difficult social problems can be through the exchange of the ideas and the judgments of many people. This meeting, says one group, is an example of working together to achieve pooled judgment. Let us spread this type of problem-solving, they say, to organizations in our own communities, meeting together in small groups to solve our problems through pooled judgment.

People have to learn to take responsibility. We learn through practice. Let's help our children learn responsibility through having a chance to practice it.

Another way of saying this, perhaps, is that a basic element of democracy is freedom to make choices. Let's see that all of us, including our children, have the freedom to learn to make choices wisely. And let's get to know each other as people; the best way to know each other is to work together. Goodness knows, there is enough work to do in our nation. Let's get together, regardless of race, religion, skin color, and money in our pockets, and do the job.

National organizations can be a help to us, as many groups said. National organizations should help members understand what the issues are, the pros and cons. They should encourage discussion and encourage members to exercise their rights by voting. Organizations can take a stand for the essential rights set forth in the report of the President's Committee on Civil Rights.

Many groups said, "Let's be honest." One group said that it is important that from time to time we examine our assumptions. What do we really believe? And they suggested three possibilities. Are we really saying that we should concentrate on our own problems here at home and let achievements speak for themselves? Are we saying that we should cooperate with other countries in defining and helping each

other to achieve human rights, or are we saying that we want to force our conception of rights on other people?

Let's recognize, says one group, that people who practice discrimination are hurt almost as intensely as, if not more than, those against whom they discriminate. Let's recognize that in order not to be hypocrites, national organizations represented in this conference should practice equality of opportunity within their own organizations before they issue a credo on democratic citizenship. We decided, says one group, that this nation should practice equality of opportunity within the continental limits of the United States before it places our democracy on a pedestal to be emulated by other nations.

To sum up, I know of no better phrase than this: People, all people, everybody, everywhere; people are important.

Thank you. (Applause)

(The reporter was dismissed from the meeting.)

Third National Conference on Citizenship
Washington, D. C., May 16-19, 1948

THIRD THUMBNAIL REPORTS OF DISCUSSION GROUPS

by
Ruth Cunningham
Associate Professor, Teachers College, Columbia University

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Third National Conference on Citizenship: This is the third report to you from you, via your reports chairmen, concerning the work of the group discussions yesterday afternoon. As you know, the topic was: "Citizenship in Action in the Local Community."

In our discussions yesterday afternoon we felt that there were seven ideas worthy of major consideration. The first idea we talked about was, "Let's be sure we know where we are." Well, where are we? We are in a different world from that of even a few years ago. That sounds like a mere platitude, but it is terrifyingly true. And too many of our organizations are like Model T engines under the hoods of 1948 Packards. They may look all right, but, brother, they can't get you there.

Each community is interdependent with every other. That is another cliche that sounds simple but scares you when you begin to examine it. No longer is any one community an island, independent of other communities. Yesterday, what happened in Centerville was all that mattered in Centerville, but today, what happens in Washington, New York, Paris, London, Moscow, Tokyo and Kukamonga makes a difference in Centerville--and what happens in Centerville makes a difference in the world.

Where are we? Let's face the facts. There are thousands of youngsters in this country not in school, and who haven't a chance to be. There are thousands of people in this country who are second-class citizens. There are thousands ill-housed, under-nourished and ill-clothed. Chambers of commerce may not like to admit it, but it is true.

Let's face the facts. Let's know where we are.

Idea No. 2: Let's be sure we know where we are going and what we are trying to do. Well, who is to decide where we are going? Who knows what we ought to try to do? The answer is: We do; we, all the little people in all the little situ-

ations which, combined, become the big, significant forces of our country. We, the people, know that sound progress comes only when we work out our own solutions.

No long-term progress is achieved when we are told by the higher-ups what the solution is or ought to be. We have to work out our solutions ourselves. In line with this same idea, we know it is silly to first set up an organization and then look for something for the organization to do. We need to start with real problems and organize to solve those problems. It is foolish, too, to talk about cooperation for cooperation's sake. People learn to cooperate only when there is a job on which they can work together.

Where are we going? What are we trying to do? Our first job is to get together to think through our problems and achieve a consensus to our common goals.

Idea No. 3: Cooperation means everybody. We can't name all the "everybodys" but some are so important, or are so frequently overlooked, that we will give them special attention. Everybody includes youth, boys and girls who are growing up, who are now forming habits and attitudes of citizenship. Let's see that youngsters get in on our cooperation. Everybody includes new Americans--people who are citizens not merely as an accident of birth but because they chose to be Americans. A hearty handshake and a word of welcome are nice, but such gestures are not enough. New Americans must be in on our cooperation. Everybody includes minorities, people who live on the wrong side of the tracks, people who say "he don't" and "ain't," people who have as much money as we wish we had, people who have more power than we think they ought to have. All minorities must be in on the planning. Everybody includes people who don't agree with each other. It is an important job for us to see to it that such people, such groups, have an opportunity to meet each other face to face and talk out their differences. Everybody includes Joe and Helen and Bill and Sue, the timid people who may feel that they have little to contribute, not realizing that we need them; we must have their help if there is to be community action. Everybody includes many people with good sense and good ideas who don't know

how to express themselves. It is our job to see to it that the inarticulate are heard. Everybody includes you and me, who may, because we go to meetings such as this and talk a lot about citizenship, believe we are thereby fulfilling our duties. Far from it. Going to meetings like this increases our obligations, as it increases our awareness of the magnitude and importance of the jobs to be done. Yes, cooperation means everybody.

Idea No. 4: We must find the people who can best help us to get where we want to go and do what we want to do. In other words, we must find our leaders; and finding conscientious competent leaders is one of the major tasks of democratic people, and one of the most difficult jobs.

There are several concepts we talked about yesterday that may help us. (a) The job is not one of finding the leader, but of finding leaders. We need many people to lead in terms of their individual competence and their individual situations. (b) There is, almost without exception, a far greater resource of leaders than we realize. The problem is not so much the lack of leaders as it is lack of skill in locating leaders. (c) Leaders, particularly professional leaders (which includes many of us), tend to cling jealously to their area of leadership, rather than use their influence to develop leadership in others. (d) Leaders, particularly leaders in influential organizations (and that includes many of us), tend to use their leadership to further the particular organization, rather than to lead people in ways that are important to them. (e) Leaders, good leaders, emerge when sound group process is applied to the solution of real problems. Predetermined "fair-haired boys" are seldom good leaders. (f) Many of these ideas about leaders and leadership tend to be irritating to us, the leaders, but we must be big enough to recognize their validity if we are to be true leaders of people.

Idea No. 5: Talk alone may be lots of fun, but it doesn't get the job done. We were discussing yesterday the topic, "Citizenship in Action in the Local Community." In all groups, you agree that a major word here is "action": doing something about citizenship. It means that when we leave this meeting today and go to our communities, we are obliged to do, or to help someone else do, a better job.

It is harder to get people to work on some types of problems than on others. Examples of some tough ones are housing, segregation, aid to education and wage negotiation. But some of the toughest problems are among the most important. It won't be easy, but let's see if we can't get together even in matters such as these. Words without deeds are pretty hollow affairs.

Idea No. 6: We must practice what we preach. No matter how unpleasant it is, look in the mirror. This process of self-examination is no fun and it isn't easy. But we must undertake it if we are to fulfill our citizenship duty.

Idea No. 7: We must know where we have been, and be aware of how we have moved from there to here, if we are to be wise in planning where we are to go next. Communities must learn to assess their programs and their leaders, and the best assessment is achieved through self-evaluation. Sometimes outside help can be useful in achieving a view of ourselves as others see us, but the value of the assessment lies in our willingness and ability to make use of objective evaluations, even though they are uncomfortable, and they often are.

As we view ourselves, we must learn to see our communities whole, not merely as segmented programs of various organizations. The degree of effective orchestration of agencies in a community is an important measure of the merit of each agency, as well as the community program as a whole.

Well, the seven ideas we discussed then are these:

Let's be sure we know where we are.

Let's be sure we know where we are going.

Cooperation means everybody.

Let's find the people who can help us go where we want to go, that is, the leaders.

Talk alone doesn't get the job done.

We must practice what we preach.

We must know where we have been and be aware of how we have moved from there to here, if we are to be wise in planning where we are to go next.

This is a P.S. from the groups: We have enjoyed ourselves at this conference, but we have some suggestions to make for the future.

(a) We like having young people at this conference, high school boys and girls. We have enjoyed them so much, we think it is so important that they be here, we have learned so much from them, that we hope there will be more of them at future conferences.

(b) We have liked the opportunity for discussion in small groups. We have liked our discussions so much, we believe in this method so strongly, we have learned so much through discussion, that we recommend more time for such discussions at future conferences.

(c) We are so pleased with the thinking we have done, we are so impressed with our achievements, that we recommend that reports of this conference be widely distributed to groups throughout the country. Such wide distribution of the conference reports would not only help us to share our thinking with others, but further, and perhaps more important, would indicate what can be accomplished in a conference of this nature.

(d) We have enjoyed this conference so much, it has been so meaningful to us, that we recommend strongly that it be repeated; that similar conferences be sponsored for regional groups; and that each organization represented here employ similar procedures in national, state, and local divisions of their organizations.

Your chairman has suggested that we might take a few minutes to look back over past discussions. As I review the reports submitted, these things stand out in my mind:

(1) A good American citizen today is a world-minded citizen. He is aware of his privileges and responsibilities as a citizen of the world, as well as a citizen of the United States.

(2) One of our greatest hazards today is that we may be blinded by narrow nationalism. It is easy to let the drama of flag waving get in our eyes and blind us to larger issues. The world-minded citizen doesn't dare be blinded by narrow nationalism, even if, or perhaps particularly if, the drama of flag waving is accompanied by martial music.

(3) World-mindedness is a two-way street. We want the world to know more about us, our ideals, our customs, our habitual ways of thinking and acting. We have an obligation to know more about others, studying with an open mind their ideals, their customs, their habitual ways of thinking and acting. And, more important still, they and we must devise ways of determining values jointly and cooperatively. The best means we have today are through UN and UNESCO.

(4) Americans, real Americans, can't be satisfied with a society which provides for first-class citizenship for some and forces a second-class citizenship on others. Democracy, real democracy, means equal rights and privileges for all, for labor, for management, for men, for women, for everyone, regardless of his age, his political views, the money he has in his pocket, his religious faith, or his social prestige. Democracy, to be worthy of the name, is democracy for everyone.

Sometimes, perhaps, there are those who seem to be insensitive to their obligations as citizens. Sometimes, of course, it is true there are those who are insensitive. There are those; but before we condemn them, let's ask ourselves if we expect conformity in obligation regardless of the dignity due an American citizen. For example, can a man act with dignity in the service of his country when there is within the service the indignity of segregation? (Applause) Real democracy means equal obligations and equal rights for all.

One of our greatest tasks in becoming true American citizens, and citizens of the world, is to rid ourselves of fear: fear that the other fellow may get ahead of us; fear of change, an attitude that leads to undue reverence for the good old days; fear that leads to apathy and a "what's the use" attitude; fear that leads to witch hunts; fear that leads to hate; and fear that leads to war.

True, we have much to fear, but let's save our fear for places where it is needed: fear of people who push other people around, fear of intolerance, fear of injustice. Fears, blind fears, can lead to bondage. Intelligent fears can keep us aware of the threats to democracy--sly thinking, smart guys, prejudice, and want.

Three faiths have we: legislation, education, participation, and the greatest of these is participation. Participation means that all of us, everyone, regardless of faith, race, sex, ethnic background, regardless of nationality, get together. Participation means that the world gets together to solve its problems. This is an ideal to which we hold with strength and tenacity.

I believe that in the things I have been saying I speak for most of you, if one can judge from your group reports. I know, however, that in some things I

do not speak for everyone. Even in such basic matters as we have been discussing, we are not all of like mind. A major task for all of us as honest democratic American citizens is to get together to think through our problems and to approach this cooperative venture in thinking with honesty, humility and open minds. There is much for each of us to learn. Maybe we can learn, for example, that we may not need to sell liberty for a promise of security, for, through intelligent cooperative action, we may be able to achieve both: we may be able to achieve democracy. We may learn that we don't yet know the appropriate role of the Federal Government in regulating our current society and our modern economy. Let's remember that we don't yet know, and let's not be swayed by oratory based on individual whim rather than on considered group judgment.

We may learn that too often we have insufficient evidence to know where to place blame for malpractice, on labor or on management, for example. We must learn not to be unduly influenced by big names with pet hobbies, and to withhold judgment until we have facts and have weighed the evidence in terms of our democratic values.

We must learn that progress involves change, and that change is frequently uncomfortable because it jogs us out of our ruts. Change is not necessarily distortion or "stretching out of shape"; sometimes we call it improvement or progress. (Applause).

Let's remember, too, that the fellow who disagrees with us may be termed a "disloyalist" or he may be an honest fellow, with an honest idea of what ought to be. Name calling can easily become a little man's way of dodging big social issues. Moreover, we are far from a solution in this matter of equality, but let's not confuse identity of status with equality of opportunity (I am quoting from one of your reports). We recognize that we have many unsolved problems, including those mentioned by our speaker this morning: change versus maintaining the status quo in our society; the role of the Federal Government (which, by the way, is we, you and I),

multiplied the nation over; the relations of management and labor; providing equality of citizenship.

Our job is to recognize these problems, to face them squarely without personal prejudice, to do some hard, tough, cooperative thinking about them, to avoid being swayed by oratory and pseudo logic about them, to weigh the evidence pro and con in terms of fact and of democratic values--in short, to act as honest, democratic American citizens. Only thus can men and women of America remain faithful to a government under which they can remain free.

May I repeat a former statement: We have taken a tuck in time; we have put a pleat in space; if we are to live comfortably in this tight world, we must let out the old seams of our thinking.

Since this is my final report to you from you, may I take this opportunity to tell you what a privilege it has been to be your voice at this conference. If these thumbnail reports have been of any value, and I hope they have, it is because they represent the fine thinking of the hundreds of people at this conference. I am honored to have been your voice. In the words of a famous comedian: "I'm just so proud to know you." (Applause)

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Third National Conference on Citizenship
Washington, D. C.

Topic I
May 17, 1948; 2:00 P. M.

THE WORLD-MINDED AMERICAN CITIZEN

1. What do we mean by being world-minded?

2. Why is world-mindedness an essential attribute of American citizenship?

3. How does our knowledge of other countries contribute to world peace?

4. Does the average voting citizen of our country know the truth about international conditions and relationships?

5. Is it directly important to Americans if citizens of other countries are denied basic human rights? Why?

6. Is unlimited national sovereignty a threat to world peace? If so, what should be our attitude towards this issue?

7. What should the American citizen know about the United Nations?

8. What specific things can the average American citizen do to encourage international understanding and world peace?

9. What are our most important individual responsibilities in world affairs?

10. What are the three to five most valuable things that our organizations might do to help our members in recognizing and successfully accomplishing their responsibilities as world-minded American citizens?

Note: These questions are not intended to limit or direct the discussion of this topic. They are intended only to help to get the discussion under way. Do not try to discuss all topics; select two or three and try to arrive at some definite conclusions. We hope that all groups will discuss questions 1 and 10.

FOR RELEASE UPON DELIVERY

CITIZENSHIP - RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

An Address

By

HONORABLE CARL B. HYATT

DIRECTOR

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CITIZENSHIP PROGRAM

Before the

THIRD NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CITIZENSHIP

Washington, D. C.

Monday, May 17, 1948

10:00 A. M.

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF CITIZENSHIP

Two years ago, the first National Conference on Citizenship was held in Philadelphia.

Those responsible for the conference felt that our country needed an enlightened and progressive citizenry, sensible of its great heritage, vigilant in its defense, and alert to the fulfillment of its obligations, in peace as in war.

The Philadelphia Conference was a milestone in democratic relations. People from diverse groups sat down together, to counsel with each other on how best to translate the heritage of American citizenship into dynamic reality.

The delegates urged national solidarity to meet the challenge of the future. While they recognized that differences among individuals are a part of democracy, they stressed again and again the necessity for resolving these differences when they become disruptive to the unity of the whole.

On this high plane, the gathering in Philadelphia set a pattern for the Second National Conference, which was held a year later in Boston.

In both the First and the Second Conferences, the National Education Association had the advice and cooperation of the United States Department of Justice. In this Third National Conference, the Department of Justice is co-sponsor with the Association.

The structure and objectives of the Boston and Philadelphia meetings were similar. Attendance was limited for the conferences were in a formative stage. To a certain extent, they were experimental, designed to find out how well representatives of different groups could work together, how analytically and objectively they could reexamine the rights and responsibilities of citizenship, and how readily they could subordinate individual and special interests for the common good. It was hoped, also, that these conferences would lay the groundwork for larger and more representative ones in the future.

Standing before this inspiring assembly of men and women - leaders among those having at heart the future of our country and of the world, I know I speak for all of us who took part in the earlier planning, when I say, we are now convinced that a national conference on citizenship is more than a noble idea; it is a reality.

And so we meet for the Third National Conference. We meet at a crucial time in national and world history. A spirit of uneasiness, apprehension, even of fear is abroad in our land and every land. Evidences of disunity are seen on every hand.

We have to choose a philosophy to live by - a philosophy of hope, or a philosophy of fear.

If we choose the philosophy of fear and failure, we shall destroy ourselves physically and spiritually.

If we choose the philosophy of hope and courage, we shall find a good life for ourselves and all humanity.

It is fitting, indeed, that the Conference should be held in the Nation's Capital.

Here, we meet in the midst of shrines that symbolize the soul of our country, that record America's history and foretell her destiny.

A few yards away, pointing to the stars, rises the Washington Monument. Erected by a grateful people in loving tribute to the Father of our Country, it memorializes his unselfish devotion to the cause of freedom. In our early troubled days, the steadfast and selfless character of George Washington held the Thirteen Colonies together, as they strove to achieve independence. After victory, it helped to fuse quarreling states into a strong and enduring Nation.

Across the Tidal Basin stands the Jefferson Memorial, embodying the spirit of the man who expressed the basic principles of our national life. Thomas Jefferson placed his faith in the "experiment of self-government and the inherent goodness of human nature." He gave to this Nation its democratic mission. A Virginian, an American, a citizen of the world, he enunciated the principle that the rights of man are universal.

Nearby is the Lincoln Memorial, dedicated to the memory of a man whose great heart held love for all humanity. Carved on its walls, as well as stamped upon the minds and hearts of the people of America, are the never to be forgotten words of the Gettysburg Address. Lincoln saw what the world must come to see - that liberty is indivisible.

Across the Potomac in Arlington Cemetery is the tomb of the Unknown Soldier, reminding us that America reverently remembers its unknown and unsung heroes, who sacrificed for the rights and privileges that we all enjoy. From behind the plow, beside the machines of industry, the crossroads of business and the highways and bypaths of our great Nation have come countless thousands of the great plain people who have helped to shape our National destiny and to bring the American dream nearer to living truth.

On a hill, not far away, rises the Washington Cathedral. Within it is the last resting place of Woodrow Wilson, who visioned a world safe for democracy and a day when wars would be no more. Woodrow Wilson realized that we are a part of the world, that humanity is indivisible, that America touches elbows and hearts with all the nations of mankind. He realized that the future of our Nation is bound up with the future of the human race.

Slightly to the East of us stands the stately White House, the home of our presidents from the days of John Adams to the present time. This dignified dwelling place is, indeed, a "shrine of on-going democracy, within which lives a president whose greatness is measured by the extent to which he is the servant of all the people."

Facing the Capitol is the majestic structure that houses the Supreme Court. Within this temple of justice, one feels a spirit of reverence, coupled with a sense of pride, at being in the presence of the tribunal that protects and defends our Constitution with its Bill of Rights - our priceless Charter of Liberty.

Overlooking the city, its cornerstone laid by George Washington, is our National Capitol. Silhouetted against an everchanging sky, its silvery dome signifies to the world the right of free people to govern themselves. In its historic chambers, democracy speaks through representatives chosen by the voice of the people.

Truly these shrines give vivid expression to the rights and responsibilities of citizenship - the theme of this conference. And so I repeat, it is fitting that we meet in the Nation's Capital. Here we feel the pulsations of our country's heart and vibrations from happenings the world over.

Long and careful thought went into the theme of the Conference. The decision was made by neither the Department of Justice nor the National Education Association.

First, the Attorney General's Advisory Committee on Citizenship, composed of distinguished citizens representing varied groups, discussed at length subjects that might be considered. Next, the Conference Advisory Committee on Citizenship of the National Education Association, likewise composed of outstanding citizens from different callings, weighed carefully several suggestions. Finally, the two committees, in joint session, agreed upon the theme submitted for your deliberations.

Today, Basic Human Rights and Attendant Responsibilities extend from the familiar places of our home towns to the far flung corners of the earth.

Distance has been dwarfed, and time telescoped. It's a far cry from that era when it took General Washington 7 days to travel from Mount Vernon to New York for his inauguration as our first President, and when another presidential party, on its way to the National Capital, got lost in the forest between Baltimore and Washington.

We no longer travel to New York in a buggy, traverse the continent in a prairie schooner, or cross the ocean in a sailing vessel. Science has shrunk oceans and continents, destroying geographical isolation, and drawing all peoples nearer to one another.

Plunged into the Atomic Age, in possession of a power that we do not fully understand and have not yet mastered, we are faced with momentous decisions, impelling in their urgency.

We are forced to think, not merely in community, or State, or even National terms, but in world terms. For like the pebble, tossed into a body of water, which starts circles that widen and widen until they reach the fartherest shore, what happens in our hamlets and villages ultimately is felt in the capitals of the nations.

What we do in world affairs depends upon what we are and do as a Nation, which in turn depends upon what we are and do in our states and communities.

And in the final analysis, it is what we are and do as individuals.

The strength of our Nation comes from the combined strength of the men and women who make it up, and the strength of each of these comes from within, not from without.

From world affairs to local affairs threads the principle that rights and responsibilities are inseparable. They follow one upon another as do the ebb and flow of the tide in the seas that both separate and unite the lands of the globe.

A noble group, including Plato, Aristotle, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, Woodrow Wilson and Franklin D. Roosevelt have carried to all ages the message that happiness, and friendship, and peace belong to all humanity.

Stars of David, and crosses row on row, in cemeteries under wide and starry skies everywhere spell out that liberty is universal - that this God-given right planted in the hearts of all should be denied to none.

Man cannot speak truly of freedom and mean freedom only for himself. He must mean more - a willingness to defend the liberty of others. Freedom is not for Americans to enjoy in isolation. A gift of the Divine, if we are selfish with it, we may lose it.

When we speak of liberty we should mean not only the benefits it brings, but the lofty ideas it represents and the duties and obligations that it imposes. We must think not of what we want, but of what others should have. Acting upon this moral and spiritual plane, our own lives will become richer. As the advance of science brings peoples face to face, they must of necessity find the way to live together in amity.

International good will and understanding are attainable goals.

Although the world may seem to falter in its onward march, we should not despair. In 1787 fifty-five determined men - most of them wise, all of them sincere - met in Independence Hall to lay the foundation for the greatest nation on earth.

The hour was dark, but they did not waver!

Instead they brought order out chaos, and wrought unity out of division.

Today we must continue to give our support to the United Nations, the most ambitious attempt yet made toward lasting peace.

The well-being of America is bound up with the well-being of peoples everywhere. We cannot isolate ourselves.

As we play our destined role in helping to rebuilt humanity, in helping to restore to stricken peoples faith in themselves and hope for the future - faith in the dignity and destiny of man - we must draw heavily upon our American Heritage.

And our Heritage comes from all the world and our people from all mankind.

Out of the eternal longing and quest for freedom, millions from far away lands crossed strange oceans and came here to realize their dreams of liberty.

Some brought little except courage and hope. Others brought something more, precious skills and talents. All made their contribution, building, renewing, and enriching this great Nation, and making it the inspiration of liberty loving and oppressed peoples everywhere.

People of every race, creed, and culture, brought their gifts and laid them at the alter of America. America now has the opportunity to repay its debt to mankind. It is most appropriate, therefore, that this Conference consider the subject of the "World-Minded American Citizen."

As we seek to light the way, and to guide humanity to freedom and happiness in lands across the seas, we must likewise attempt to build for people within our own borders a way of life that is filled with liberty and justice for all.

With all of our glorious history, our country is not perfect. There are moments when the breezes cease to blow and the flag droops in shame at the selfishness and greed of those who betray the American heritage, and divert its march toward the fullness of democracy.

A good America can become a better America. Sovereign citizens - genuine and faithful in purpose, ever mindful of their trust - can hand on to the next generation a better and nobler America than they themselves found.

And that is why we are also discussing, at this Conference, "Citizenship in Action in the Local Community."

As we face the future, let us place the ideal as high as possible - even beyond our reach. The ideal that shapes our life should perhaps be as far above us as the stars that guide the navigator, charting the course of his ship at sea.

Our precious American Heritage which we seek to translate on local, national and international levels is not something material. We cannot see it, or touch it. It is not the Liberty Bell, Lexington, or Valley Forge. Rather, it is what the Liberty Bell rang out to proclaim, what the patriots defended at Lexington, and what Washington fought and prayed for at Valley Forge.

I know of no better way to express the point I am endeavoring to make than to read a message to this Conference from a member of the Attorney General's Advisory Committee on Citizenship. He wanted to be with us today, but his health would not permit.

His message reads:

"I came to America many years ago. I came from a little village across the sea. I can still see it, the hills, the brook, the mill, the monastery. I remember the steamer and the ocean, water, wind, waves for days and days and the new, strange, far away country that was to be my home.

"I remember finding my way to school, an American school. That was where my life in the new country began. I sat and listened and tried to learn. My teachers said I should. I heard the teachers talk of America, of the Declaration of Independence, of Patrick Henry, of Washington and Franklin and Jefferson and Lincoln.

"I thought of Washington, not as he was at Mount Vernon, but, as he was at Valley Forge, in his hut with the ragged soldiers of the war.

"I thought of Lincoln as a boy in his log cabin, studying by the light of the fire.

"'These are truly Americans,' I said to myself, and I felt that all Americans were like them, and I made up my mind to hurry and be a man. I too wanted to belong. I too wanted to feel the strength and the great love of the children of Washington and Lincoln.

"And it happened to me, as it did to thousands of foreign born, that after many years I was graduated from an American school and then from an American college. I became a teacher, an American teacher, in an American public school. I belonged. I felt the strength of children about me, and I was proud to be among them. In time I became a principal of an American public school. To it came, by and by, visitors from far and wide, from Asia, Africa, Australia, Europe, Canada, Mexico, South America. They came searching the spirit that had made America great. Each time they came they smiled as they said, 'There is something here in the life of your children that makes one think of Washington and Lincoln,' and my heart would throb - 'My Country 'Tis of Thee I Sing.'

"My proudest boast is that I am a citizen of the United States of America, that I, like all of you, belong."

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Angelo Patri

DELIVERY -- Monday morning, May 17

William G. Carr, Associate Secretary, National Education Association and Secretary, Educational Policies Commission, 1201 Sixteenth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.
SUBJECT: THE WORLD-MINDED AMERICAN CITIZEN
Address before Third National Conference on Citizenship, Auditorium, Department of Interior, Washington, D.C.

It is quite clear, is it not, that the responsibilities of good American citizenship change and develop with the years. New events in the history of our country have given emphasis to new aspects of good citizenship. Altho certain traits form the permanent core of education for citizenship, a program to prqare our people for full discharge of their civic responsibilities must take account of modern developments, as well as of great and worthy traditions.

We are a nation born in revolution and nurtured along a frontier, a people not easily frightened by new ideas. Our greatest strength has been our ability to adapt our institutions to new needs without sacrifice of desirable elements of order and stability.

Among the many qualities which a good citizen of our country will possess today, certainly the ability to deal effectively with our new international responsibilities is of first importance. These new relationships were not sought by us. We hesitated a long while before accepting them. Even today, a minority of us would like to retreat from them. But most of us are now convinced, I think, that good American citizenship today demands a deep concern in world affairs.

Being convinced that new occasions teach new duties, and that the international relations of our country present to us such a new occasion, the National Education Association, immediately after the U.S. joined the United Nations in 1945, requested its Committee on International Relations to make a thorough study of the program of education that should be set up to prepare young Americans to discharge their duties as loyal citizens of a country that plays a responsible part in the achievement and maintenance of a just peace.

After three years of work, the recommendations of the Committee are now in the press. The report of the Committee is divided into two main sections: The first part describes the product we wish to achieve through the processes of education,--the knowledge, the attitudes, the principles of behavior which ought to be made a part of the life of the developing citizen. Delegates to this Conference have received a summary of some of the recommendations in this part of the report. They are stated in the form of ten characteristics or qualities which, in the opinion of our Committee, a well-educated, world-minded American citizen will posses. The second part deals with method, giving practical suggestions for the organization of teaching and learning which is most likely to produce the qualities that are desired. I shall discuss mainly the first of these two parts. After all, a conference on citizenship is concerned primarily with goals. If we can agree on the goals it will be relatively easy to find and use the appropriate teaching methods to reach those goals.

Before I go further, however, I would like to make it clear that our Committee does not regard the responsibilities of the American citizen in the inter-national field as opposed to, or in competition with, the other civic duties which we all share. On the contrary, the Committee believes that the obligation to be intelligent about the international relations of our country is an essential part of good citizenship. To prepare ourselves and our young people to discharge these duties is an essential part of education for citizenship. The Committee does not recommend the establishment of separate courses on international relations in our elementary

or secondary schools. It recommends instead that the points of view which characterize the well-educated, world-minded American ought to permeate the total program of citizenship education.

Surely it will hardly be argued today that a true patriot can turn his back upon the international duties and commitments of the people of the United States. We must all realize that the protection of ourselves and of our fellow citizens from the calamities of war are acts of the highest patriotism. We must realize, too, that a good standard of living and a free and satisfying life for ourselves and for our fellow citizens cannot be achieved without due recognition of the fact that America is only one of many nations which comprise the world. The soundest kind of patriotism can see beyond the years and beyond the borders of our own country. We believe that such a patriot is a far better citizen than the man or woman who is ignorant and unconcerned about the relations of our country with the rest of the world. The narrow nationalist, with his reckless disregard of the consequences that would befall the American people and their free institutions in the event of another war is, in our opinion, no patriot at all, though he warap himself in the American flag and shout the oath of allegiance hourly from the house tops.

I assume that most of the members of this Conference are not directly concerned with instruction in our schools. You are, for the most part, citizens whose vocations lie in other fields. You may be wondering why you are asked to hear about the plans for the improvement of the work of the schools in the development of world-minded American citizens. Frankly, there are three reasons why I have chosen to present this material to you in this particular way.

In the first place the schools need your help to encourage the teaching profession itself to examine critically what it is now doing with reference to education in international relations. Teachers, like everyone else, tend to become fixed in certain habits of procedure and thought. It helps us all to receive the generous interest and informal criticisms of the public at large.

There is a second reason why we need your understanding and support. You are leaders of great national civic organizations. We want you to understand that the schools are trying hard to do a good job of educating patriotic American citizens. Sometime some organizations give the impression that if a school teaches children about any problem outside the borders of our own country, it is not teaching American citizenship. We think that this is a false and inadequate picture of what the school should be doing. We want your support and understanding for a broader educational program. We want you, as the leaders of civic organizations, to persuade the members of your organizations to support their local public schools in the development of a complete program of civic education, with appropriate emphasis on the international responsibilities of the people of the United States. This is, you see, a call for allies and assistants. I am not talking to you about the hallmarks of the world-minded American with any thought that you are less capable of passing on these points than I. I am asking you to think with me about the matter because we need your help and understanding. If our schools should neglect this area of civic education, either because the teachers and school administrators are not sufficiently sensitive to it; or if (as is more likely the case) because teachers and school administrators are afraid to move into the area for fear of public criticism, the education of our children will suffer and our country will suffer.

Third, we in education want the help of other citizens because we simply can not do the job by ourselves. If the principles we teach in school are denied and flouted in the out-of-school life of children, if the words and actions of parents, the press, the radio, and the community in general run counter to the lessons of the school, the contest is uneven. The schools can't win under such conditions.

Children learn all the time. No school is good enough, or can be good enough, to cancel the other educative forces in life. Frustration and cynicism are the inevitable products of two opposing programs of education.

One more point before bringing to an end this already too long introduction. The ideas contained in the ten marks of the well-educated, world-minded American citizen did not spring in full and perfect stature from the minds of the members of the Committee or of its staff. They are the result of a very wide search and consultation. We collected the opinions of 200 distinguished Americans. We conducted many conferences with civic leaders. We asked the advice of experts on international relations and of educational leaders. I think few reports of this kind rest upon so wide a process of consultation and deliberation.

1. The world-minded American citizen realizes the dreadful danger in which civilization would be placed by another world war. Without subscribing to the push-button theory of war-fare, and without surrendering to an unrelieved despair, he still will understand the perils which another war would bring. He knows the general tendency of wars to become increasingly costly and increasingly destructive. Allow me to quote just one figure which is typical of the kind of material that could be brought to the attention of our youth to illustrate just one aspect of the cost of war in one single city. It has been estimated that in the city of Berlin alone, if a train of fifty cars were to leave each day to carry away the rubble of the Second World War, it would take 1600 years to remove the debris left by the air fighting in that one city. When we add to the damage done to physical property, some of it is of great historical and artistic value, and all of it precious to someone, the damage done to human beings and the corrosive damage done to standards of ethical and moral behavior, we begin to realize what war does to humanity. Experience forces us to face the stark possibility that the values which we would try to defend in another war could be lost in the very process of defending them.

No American wants war, but the well-educated, world-minded American will not assume that the world is free from war. On the contrary, he will be prepared to face, with sobriety, the unpleasant fact that, in a world divided sharply into two camps, each striving for position and advantage, one or more nations might decide to resort to war. The world-minded American citizen will know that, if this happens, strength will be his only hope of survival.

I know that to teach children about thecost and consequences of the last war and the threat of another isn't easy. I know it isn't pleasant. And I'm afraid it's dangerous. But it would be as wrong for teachers to ignore that whole problem as it would be for a physician to cover up a wound with a bandage when he ought to do something far more drastic. Just to hide it doesn't cure it. To refuse to look at it doesn't cure it. Teaching like that is delicate business, but then, so, I suppose, is surgery. If it were badly done, it could drive youth into the unrelieved apathy of despair, or into a sort of impratical pacifism. We can not thrust the horrors of war upon children at a tender age. We must let the children know the facts as soon as they can take them. The alternative to shocking or frightening children surely can't be coated education that is blind and blinking in the cold light of reality as we know it is today. I say then, help us to teach the truth about war.

The second characteristic of the world-minded American citizen, is a desire for peace with liberty and justice.

Let no one suppose that the world-minded American citizen will accept peace at any price. There could be a peace of slavery, a peace where human rights are ignored, a peace of death. There could be temporary security in submission to injustice, security in stagnation, the security of a cage. These are not the peace and security which the world-minded American seeks. There is a basic morality in the peace and

security which the world-minded American aims to promote and to cherish. He has been taught to stand up for freedom both because freedom is a good thing in itself, and because the suppression of freedom is a menace to the peace of the world. Every invasion of freedom of thought and of speech in our country is a threat to the peace. Every extension of tyranny over the mind of man, anywhere in the world, is a danger to peace. Help us to use public education to make our country a living demonstration to all the world that free men, with free minds, are the surest guarantees of peace and justice.

The world-minded American know that nothing in human nature makes war inevitable. The dismal chant that "you can't change human nature" has been raised against every hopeful and progressive tendency in history. It was used to defend human slavery, to oppose the inauguration of free schools, to prove with exquisite logic that men never could rule themselves. But slavery is gone, public education is routine, and government by the people has not perished from the earth. The gloomy prophets were wrong before; they are wrong today. Some people say that there must always be wars. But careful students of psychology tell us that every normal person at birth possesses almost unlimited capacities of variable response. Impulses can be regulated, directed guided. We see illustrations of that fact at every dining table and traffic light. Dictatorships nearly always teach their people that war is unavoidable. War may, indeed, come again. But, if it does come, it will not stem from some primordial force beyond human power to halt, like the tides of the sea or the swing of the stars in the sky.

To be sure, conflicts of interest are inevitable as long as every one can not have everything he wants. But most conflicts of interest, even in the imperfect world of today, are resolved without violence. Only an occational war and a relatively few criminal acts are the exceptions to the general rule. Nearly all possible uses of violence are now subdued and regulated either by agencies of government or by the influence of social custom and personal habits, by the restraints of law. Mankind has travelled very far indeed along the road from the anarchy of the jungles. To say that the next few remaining steps to complete the journey are impossible is to deny the evidence of both history and psychology.

The world-minded American believes in, and uses, organized education as one means to peace through understanding. (Rest if this section to be developed extempraneously)

The world-minded American sees the common humanity that underlies all differences of culture. One of the greatest tasks of education, both for the achievement of a better United States and for the maintenance of peace is to avoid national and racial prejudice. We are not born with prejudices; they are thrust upon us. We all develop a series of oversimplified pictures of other peoples. We pass on these false ideas to one another in many subtle ways. All Scots are thrifty, all Frenchmen are excitable, no Mexicans are wide awake, all Russians are crafty, Italians cheat you, Norwegians are clumsy, Dutchmen are stolid, and no Englishman can see the point of a joke. There is, if we would only stop to think about it, no sound basis for these generalizations. A cross-section of any nation will reveal some citizens who are stingy and some who are generous, some with a sense of humor and some without, some who are honest and some who cheat, and so on. That is true of the people of the United States. It is true of the people of every other country. No nation or race has all the good traits or all the bad traits of our universal human nature. Help us to teach our children to appraise each person for what he is as an individual, rather than in terms of his membership in some group.

The world-minded citizen knows that nations must cooperate. The present system of unlimited National sovereignity is really no system at all. It is anarchy at the international level. The well educated American, however, knows that although

irresponsible nationalism is a threat to the peace, national loyalty is good. The modern nation represents a massive achievement in the widening area of unity and order.

The well educated citizen, therefore, takes an informed interest in the world of the United Nations and of other intern tional agencies. This is not a matter of teaching our children to praise the United Nations. It is not a question of teaching a blind faith in the United Nations. It is a question of teaching the important facts about the United Nations, -- its structure, purpose, membership, failures and successes. If we were out on a stormy sea, in a leaky boat with the motor misfiring occasionally and the salt water was coming in at the seams, we would not sink the boat. Bad as the boat might be, we would do our best to stop the leaks and to get the motor running better. It is the same way with the United Nations. It is in a very difficult storm. It may, indeed, prove inadequate, but it is the only boat we have. We had better do our level best to make it run safely and smoothly. We should inform ourselves carefully about proposals for improving the United Nations by a system of world government. Undoubtedly, the long range evolution of human society is in this direction. Anything we can do to help this trend is good.

We can lay the foundation for a stronger United Nations by developing in our own children a sense of world community. The United Nations ought to be transformed as quickly as possible into a limited system of world law. That can't happen over night. Psychological foundations for it will have to be laid first. Children should be taught, as a matter of fact and without propaganda, about the various proposals that have been made for strengthening the United Nations. I want to be very clear about this point. I'm not advocating that the schools become a propaganda forum for somebody's pet plan of how to save the world - through world government or anything else. But I am suggesting that schools develop attitudes, knowledge, and information which will ultimately make world citizenship possible - and which alone can make world citizenship possible.

I know that there may be some opposition to such a program. It may be opposed by people who sincerely believe that education of that kind is disrespect to our own nation - some sort of stab in the back to Americanism. I do not believe that viewpoint will stand up under searching examination. I think these fears though doubtless sincere, are groundless. The security of our nation - our free institutions - our very lives - our economic welfare -- are all intimately tied up with the maintenance of peace. That means a world organization that can keep the peace. And that means the development of attitudes which permit such a world organization to emerge. That, I think, is an unassailable chain of logic. Education for world citizenship, beginning with immediate environment, the adjustment of little children to what they see and hear every day, and broadening out in circles that know no limits smaller than the earth, is the basis for what must come hereafter - and the only basis. So I say, let's lift up the children so that they can see further than we can. Don't fence them in. There need be no conflict between loyal, responsible, vigorous, patriotic support for the government and the people of the United States and an equally vigorous and patriotic support for the United Nations and an evolving system of world law.

The world-minded American realizes how closely economic conditions are connected with good or bad international relations. Here is an area where domestic and foreign policy overlap. Run your mind over the major economic problems in our country today: labor relations, inflation, tax rates, business prosperity, employment, agricultural production, natural resources, and so on. Do we not find, if we pierce through the thin outer layer of these problems, that they have important international repercussions? We lent money to the British recently. They have to spend most of the money in this country. Does it matter to the British what happens

to prices in this country? We may well teach our children and ourselves to approach our economic problems, - even those that may seem at first to be of purely local or even personal concern - with due recognition of the effect of our actions in the international sphere.

The educated American is a humanitarian. To care deeply and sincerely about other people is a trait of which we need not be ashamed. However it may be under the ruthless regime of a dictatorship, a callous disregard for the sufferings of others is not a trait that we Americans admire or foster. Few Americans, however, are really aware of the poverty and misery to which most of the people of the world are condemned. Nothing in our experience permits us to understand the real conditions of life for millions of our fellow-men. Perhaps the hardest lesson for any of us to learn in this respect is that nations are composed of people. The man who groans as he pays his taxes for aid from our Government to another government, will pay up with a smile to aid another person. Robert Louis Stevenson once said that, if everyone in the world ate at the same table, no one would go hungry for very long. That is why the Committee recommends that, in teaching humane and kindly attitudes, an outlet for these feelings in action, as personal and direct action as possible, should be provided.

The world-minded American applies skill and judgment to the continuing study of international questions.

The best that any school can do for a young person is to give him a good running start. He has to finish the race for himself. Formal education can teach us some things of lasting value, but the most important things we acquire in school are habits and skills with a guaranteed life-time of usefulness. As far as good citizenship is concerned, those habits and skills are of special importance. One can learn the alphabet and the multiplication table as fixed and final decisions. We are not likely to add any new letters to the 26 we already have; nor shall we discover that two times four are any number except eight. But the shape and substance of contemporary problems will change from year to year, even from day to day. We can not teach our children international relations once and for all.

Does this mean that the study of current events and problems is futile? Not at all. Such study will add to the historical background needed to make wise decisions in the future. More valuable still is the acquisition of skills and the habits of analyzing international issues. Although the substance changes, the method of analysis remains essentially the same. Although the nature of future international problems can not be foreseen, we can be certain that habits of critical thinking will always be essential equipment for a good American citizen.

Finally, the world-minded American citizen has been educated to act in appropriate ways to secure the results he wants. Contrary to a popular opinion, the American citizen can, if he will, influence international affairs in many ways. He may correspond with citizens of other lands or contribute to overseas relief. As producer and consumer his personal decisions affect economic relations among nations. Most important, he can influence the decisions of international conferences and organizations. The American has a larger opportunity -- and a greater responsibility -- than the citizens of most other nations. His influence is doubly strengthened, -- first by the power of the United States and second by the fact that our government is subject to the sovereign will of the people.

Some people say, "Any individual effort is a waste of time. The men in Washington will decide what to do." Yet in the final analysis the citizens do decide on our foreign policy, -- through the ballot box, through influence on elected or executive officials, through the expression of public opinion. But whether through

personal acts or through government policy, through the ballot box or the expression of opinion, through political parties or through pressure groups, the ultimate test of good civic education is action which will move our country and the world nearer to our ideals.

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DELIVERY -- Monday evening, May 17, 1948

Honorable Watson B. Miller, Commissioner, Immigration and Naturalization Service, U. S. Department of Justice, Washington, D. C.
SUBJECT: SOME RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF CITIZENSHIP
Address before Third National Conference on Citizenship, Presidential Room, Statler Hotel, Washington, D. C.

SOME RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF CITIZENSHIP

By

Watson B. Miller
Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization

at the

Third National Conference on Citizenship
Hotel Statler, Monday, May 17, 1948

Representing one of the sponsoring agencies of the Third National Conference on Citizenship, I bid you hearty welcome on this, its second day.

Those of you who were fortunate enough to be present at the "I Am An American Day" ceremonies at the Sylvan Theater, Washington Monument Grounds on Sunday were thrilled by the pageantry and significance.

The general subject of this evening's consideration--"Basic Human Rights and Attendant Responsibilities"--is not merely a technical topic to be analyzed or dissected. For it goes to the very foundation of society and is the raison d'etre itself. This Conference, stimulated by the Department of Justice and the National Education Association, was called in an effort to determine more clearly the nature of such rights and their corollary obligations. While two preceding discussions of the same nature were held at Philadelphia in 1946, and at Boston in 1947, the field of interest is so vital that continuing emphasis was felt to be desirable.

Citizenship of the United States is a highly prized possession. Realization of its worth causes the heart to glow. If that warmth is missing, there is something wrong with the conception of the individual. Citizenship, in the larger sense, has been termed a subject "as broad as culture, society, or civilization," embracing "the whole scheme of social living."

Man in democracy has refused to be fettered by human imposed limitations except those which he has placed upon himself. He recognizes that some restraint is necessary if there is to be order and system in life. This curb we call "government," and our Constitution and laws are its evidence. Yet, unless we consider government as a means by which individuals may live fuller and better lives, and render willing and helpful service to the other members of the society of which we form a part, the true values of government will be lacking. St. Paul in his letter to the Corinthians, expressed the idea exactly: "the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life."

Coming to our juristic system, some of us are accustomed to think of the Constitution of the United States in terms of the description attributed to

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William Ewart Gladstone: "As the British constitution is the most subtle organism which has proceeded from progressive history, so the American Constitution is the most wonderful work ever struck off at a given time by the brain and purpose of man." This was said in 1878--a little more than half way down our history under the Constitution, an early recognition by a great and experienced English statesman. It reminds us that we have been told that the British recognized the purity and import of the Lincoln Gettysburg address even before the elements of that sublime human creed had become generally fixed in American consciousness. But we know that our fundamental law was long in its development and that there were expressions of democratic rights earlier even than the demands of the barons upon King John at Runnymede in 1215 as set forth in that milestone of human progress--Magna Carta.

The impelling desire of the individual for the liberty of action and expression that differentiates the freeman from the slave was evidenced in King Henry's Charter of Liberties of 1100, in the Roman republic during the 500 years before Christ, in the beginning of the democratic Golden Age of Greece in 510 B. C., and in the mass migration out of bondage of more than a million slaves under the inspired leadership of Moses, thirteen centuries before Christ. A modern manifestation of the same spirit appeared at a comparatively late date in "The Mayflower Pact" of those brave and simple folk who landed at Cape Cod in 1620.

The influence of the late Ambassador Bryce, in his analysis of the governmental scheme of this country, will last long. He eulogized our Constitution in a single striking sentence in The American Commonwealth: "It ranks above every other written constitution for the intrinsic excellence of its scheme, its adaptation to the circumstances of the people, the simplicity, brevity, and precision of its language, its judicious mixture of definiteness in principle with elasticity in details."

The oath of allegiance which each naturalization applicant in the United States must take requires an obligation to support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic, and to bear true faith to this country. This is the same sort of oath required of the President of the United States, the judges of the courts, and the other officers both of the United States and the States. I assume that our basic law contemplates that the subscriber to such an oath has a fair understanding of the nature of the Constitution to which he is pledging his fealty.

I like to remember what Woodrow Wilson said to five thousand newly naturalized citizens one time in Philadelphia--"You have just taken an oath of allegiance to the United States. Of allegiance to whom? Of allegiance to no one, unless it be God--certainly not of allegiance to those who temporarily represent this great Government. You have taken an oath of allegiance to a great ideal, to a great body of principles, to a great hope of the human race." How profoundly we must feel the truisms expressed in words uttered even before the first World War.

Our population is predominantly native-born. Yet, during the history of this country many natives of other lands have braved hardship and danger to enter its portals and participate in its progressive life. When a noncitizen becomes legally naturalized in the United States he is placed in all respects, except his ineligibility to the Presidency, on a legal and political equality with the native born. Likewise, he is obligated to assume the same responsibilities as those of a native citizen.

These things do relate to the work of the Immigration and Naturalization Service of which I am the administrator. One of my immediate official responsibilities, as set forth by statute, is "to promote instruction and training in

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citizenship responsibilities of applicants for naturalization." This is done through the medium of the public schools. There is authority of law for the Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization to prescribe the scope and nature of the examination of petitioners for naturalization as to their admissibility to citizenship. Among the subjects included is the applicant's understanding of the fundamental principles of the Constitution.

The Congress has thus recognized that the valuable privileges of citizenship must be balanced by the obligations which accompany that legal status.

I have derived much personal as well as official satisfaction from the reports of this work of citizenship education in cooperation with the public schools. The Service is not an "educational organization" itself. Education is a function of the States and local communities. But the Service is the agency most closely associated officially with the newcomers from foreign lands. It must make recommendations to the courts as to their qualifications for naturalization. Therefore, it is in a particularly favorable position to interest the aspirant for citizenship in taking advantage of the opportunities offered by public school classes in English and in Government.

In a recent instruction to the members of our Field Service who recommended naturalization applicants to the courts, the attorney general and I emphasized the great importance of an informed citizenry as an essential pillar of our democratic way of life. There is general agreement that measures which foster increased and intelligent participation in government merit strong support. High standards of citizenship are the goal in the naturalization process.

During the fiscal year ended June 30 last, 125,000 names of newly arrived noncitizens were sent to the public schools that the interest of the immigrants might be aroused in taking advantage of the educational opportunities offered by local communities. The 37,771 declarants for naturalization, and the 77,442 petitioners for that status--a total of 115,213 candidates--were supplied with 190,354 copies of the various parts of the Federal Textbook on Citizenship. This publication, prepared by specialists in adult education, contains clear and simply stated descriptions of the nature and purpose of our Governmental system--National and local.

The educ ational facilities of over forty of our State universities and colleges have been offered to candidates in rural areas who, by reason of inaccessibility or physical handicap, have been unable to attend regular public-school classes. There was an increase last year from approximately 4,000 to 10,000 such home study applicants. As a result of this means, new citizens even in isolated areas are enabled to give a good account of themselves by active participation in civic life.

One of the by-products of the naturalization process--and not the least important--is the opportunity presented to our growing youth to see and participate in the judicial granting of citizenship. The attorney general and I have furthered arrangements by which our field officers, with the cooperation of the judges of the naturalization courts, invite teachers and students of elementary and high schools to be present at naturalization hearings. There the students observe the manner in which applicants for citizenship and their witnesses are examined. Finally, the spectators join in the thrill which accompanies the investiture of the candidates with their new citizenship.

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On occasion the new citizens are not only received graciously by the court but patriotic and civic organizations, such as the American Legion, Daughters of the American Revolution, and Parent Teachers Associations join in a welcome to these newest of citizens. Such proceedings have been approved and stimulated because they are calculated to react favorably upon naturalized and native citizens as well. Recent examples were those in the courts of Federal Judges Phillip Forman, United States District Court, sitting in Trenton, New Jersey; Albert A. Ridge, at Kansas City, Missouri; Charles J. Vogel, at Fargo, North Dakota; and Federal Judge Louis E. Goldman, at San Francisco. I can think of no finer thing, as we refresh our blood with other strains, than to thus set up stimulating and directional guide posts for the wonderful oncoming generations who grow up to our shoulders with speed which sometimes astonishes us.

Will you not be good enough to visit the citizenship education exhibit of the Immigration and Naturalization Service at Space Number 4 in the Great Hall of the Department of Justice. It will enable you to get a better view of our work, to which you all have given such hearty support of local and State educational authorities. Mr. Clark and I would welcome your views as to the nature and scope of the examination of applicants for naturalization which you believe would disclose an adequate understanding of our Constitution and Government to enable them to assume intelligently the duties and obligations of citizenship in our America and in its galaxy of sovereign states.

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
THIRD NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CITIZENSHIP
Washington, D. C.

TOPIC II
May 18, 1948; 9:00 A. M.

BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS AND ATTENDANT RESPONSIBILITIES

1. What are the three to five basic human rights most important to all people everywhere?

2. What are the three to five basic human rights most completely assured to each and every citizen of our country?

3. What are the three to five most important rights most frequently denied to some citizens of our country?

4. American Heritage and Human Rights

   A. Human rights have been extended to more and more groups
   B. Human rights have been redefined from time to time
   C. Changes in society direct new attention to these rights and how they function.

   Are the above concepts valid? What is their meaning and significance in approaching a study of human rights?

5. What responsibilities do national organizations have for seeing that the rights agreed to in question 3 are extended to <u>all</u> citizens of our country?

6. What can individuals do to help decrease the disparity between creed and practice in human rights?

7. Can human rights be secured by legislation?

8. Does action to protect the rights of others give us greater security in the enjoyment of our rights?

9. Do you think it necessary or desirable to apply the principles of democracy to every realm of human association?

10. Are there two or three major activities in which a unified effort on the part of many national organizations might bring about improvement in the extending of basic rights and the carrying out of responsibilities more complete and effective throughout our country?

Note: Question 10 should be considered by all discussion groups. Your group may decide that a question not listed here is more critical than any on this sheet. The group should decide upon the best investment of discussion time to bring the greatest profit to the most participants.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Third National Conference on Citizenship
Washington, D. C.

Topic III
May 18, 1948; 2:00 P.M.

CITIZENSHIP IN ACTION IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

1. If we should make a "job analysis" of a good citizen, what are the three to five activities which would be given the highest ranking?

2. What elements in the local communities tend to impede the practice of good citizenship?

3. What are the elements in individuals that tend to impede their being good citizens?

4. What can be done to eradicate the worst impediments to good citizenship?

5. How can we help to make the local community a more efficient proving ground of good citizenship?

6. What are the best means to help communities to avoid serious religious or racial cleavages?

7. What local forces tend to prevent freedom of speech, press, and assembly?

8. How can we best develop the disposition and ability to accept leadership? How can the driving power of emotional devotion be added to intellectual conviction for civic betterment?

9. What are the three most important rights and the three most critical responsibilities of a citizen in his local community?

10. What are the three to five most important things each of our organizations could do that should insure that our members will be more efficient citizens in 1952 than they were in 1944?

Note: This discussion period will be altogether too short a time to devote to this key topic. Perhaps your group will wish to re-convene Wednesday morning before the closing General Session to complete discussions. If so, contact Col. W. W. Naramore at Conference Headquarters immediately to be sure of a meeting room. We urge that all discussion groups consider questions 9 and 10. It is very important to the Conference that all delegates make every effort to be present for the final General Session at 10:00 A.M., Wednesday, May 19, in the Department of Interior Auditorium.

DELIVERY -- Tuesday afternoon, May 18, 1948

Mrs. Rhea M. Eckel, Executive Secretary, New York State Citizen's Council, Inc.,
309 South McBride St., Syracuse 3, New York
SUBJECT: CITIZENSHIP IN ACTION IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY
Address before Third National Conference on Citizenship, Hall of Nations, Washington Hotel, Washington, D.C.

Listen with me to Carl Sandburg:

THE PEOPLE IS EVERY MAN, EVERYBODY. EVERYBODY IS YOU AND ME AND ALL OTHERS. WHAT EVERYBODY SAYS IS WHAT WE ALL SAY - AND WHAT IS IT WE ALL SAY?

What is it we all say? Sandburg's title suggests an answer, "The People, Yes". Faith in people -- faith in the men and women of America brought you and me to this Third Annual Conference on Citizenship. Drawn together by this faith, by a conviction that democracy is an earned right we must keep on re-earning, you and I have set outselves a task. How do we translate the concepts of democracy into living reality in our home towns? How can we rid our communities of the ghost of fear -- fear that we are living in a world gone out of control? We can agree with Sandburg, "Everybody is you and me". We can say, "The People, Yes", but that's not enough. For our most compelling assignment is to bring into existence now a way of life that means, "The People, Yes!". But we won't do the job unless we find some specific, effective techniques that are practical in our neighborhoods, instead of having merely theoretical appeal for a delightful group of people like ourselves.

I hope that now, and in the discussions to follow, we can take three steps -- at a glance they appear simple, but in reality, to climb them successfully is to achieve for democracy a position of impregnable strength. Let's first see if we can agree on the emphasis to be given to work at the foundations, at the "grass roots". Let's find out whether we concur that the focal points of constructive work must be the places where we live. Then, let's appraise some of the major challenges to communities today, for I believe we can agree on some basic priorities. Finally, let's look at some methods that work, let's view some concrete achievements -- some successful methods, which taken singly in separate cities, towns, and villages may not seem particularly impressive, but when taken together add up to a democracy on the march.

What about the communities we live in? Are they important? Shall our strategy be concerned directly with them, or with remote problems? I believe that we start where we live. To do otherwise is to engage in an unrealistic form of social escapism. Hometown USA is the place where gains are made, where state and national progress are recorded. Hometown USA is the laboratory where the voluntary efforts of men and women create the pattern of democratic living. It is the place where democracy can function in a practical way.

Arthur Morgan says, "It is high time the fundamental significance of the community be recognized." He asks us to realize that the preservation and transmission of the fundamentals of civilization depend upon a vigorous, wholesome community life. Unless many people live and work with harmony in the intimate relationships of their communities, there never can emerge a truly unified nation, or a peaceful community of mankind.

It is in our communities where problems become real. Bungling in Palestine creates neighborhood divisions. A party line shift in Moscow subjects your next door neighbor to vitriolic attacks. A strike in Detroit throws an assembly plant in my town out of gear. A selfish pricing policy in a nationwide industry shrinks pocket books in every house in my block. A new draft law hits my home with telling impact. An agreement at Lake Success brings new hope to Bill Smith's fireside.

Abandonment of fundamental concepts of justice by a Congressional committee carries fear to the heart of that honest liberal trying to do a forthright teaching job in the school on the corner. Conversely, provincial attitudes in our town -- toward reciprocal trade treaties, for example -- can contribute directly to badly drawn national legislation affecting citizens in this country and abroad.

We must agree with the farsighted man who said, "In the last analysis, it is in the American community that the fight for political freedom will be won or lost."

If communities, then, are central, if they are the places where our strength and resources must be brought to bear, what challenges must communities meet? What areas deserve priority?

I would place high the development of a constantly evolving community conscience whereby each person sees himself as a citizen of the national and world community as well as of his immediate home town. The good neighbor, the efficient planner, cleans his own back yard well, but in the process, he has regard for the people who live around him. It is a conscience that refuses to tolerate man's inhumanity to man, whether that inhumanity is expressed in terms of economic greed, racial and religious bigotry, or merely in an unthinking social snobbishness. It is a conscience that knows with John Donne, "For whom the bell tolls". But it is a community conscience which views askance destructive criticism that has as motivation the creation of confusion and division among population groups.

Intelligent planning and land use must be high on any priority list for citizen action. In many cities our environment for the dead is superior, while millions live out of touch with grass, trees, and space for play and recreation. We have developed cities without planning. We fail to recognize that no planning is the worst kind of planning -- not knowing that we must control land use or that megopolis, to use Mumford's word, will destroy us.

We have widened and improved some streets; we have built some high-speed boulevards; we have set apart some land for parks and playgrounds; we have erected some monumental buildings. But our highways and boulevards are in many cases viewed more as means of escape from boredom and ugliness than as adjuncts to a well-integrated community home; and our parks and playgrounds are considered islands of refuge from city life. True, we have public and private planning agencies. They are encouraging evidence of a growing awareness by the citizen of his interest and his sense of community housekeeping. But no greater challenge confronts the citizen of today than to replan and rebuild his community to provide comfort, convenience, and beauty.

Foremost among the problems presented by the physical community is that of shelter. We can no longer afford to regard housing as a mere business enterprise, or, in our working-class sections, as mere storage yards for the labor element in the industrial system. It is a matter of the most vital community concern, whether in its form of undertaking it be private or public. Great areas of our city are nothing but festering slums. They are rotten, ripe for demolition and redevelopment, especially since they occupy much of the useful land we have. In every conceivable way they are community liabilities. No one defends them, everyone is ashamed of them; there is disagreement only on the method of replacing them with decent and well-planned neighborhoods.

All too often technically sound plans have gathered dust because we, as citizens, have not participated in planning. We have been planned at -- planning has lacked the one essential dynamic, the continual involvement of the people who have a stake in the execution of the plan.

No citizen can afford to overlook the challenges presented by an educational system. Equality of opportunity in our land includes equality of opportunity for education. The schools in our communities are among the most powerful influences in moulding the quality of American citizenship. There must be no gap between the citizen and the school administrator and teacher.

In this age of social change, in our constantly developing society, the school is a central force in community life. We must not be so concerned with provision of physical facilities for education that we neglect the program that is taught inside the school building.

Do all children have an equal chance to be educated? If the answer is "yes" in your community, is it so in others? It must be. We need to give thought to education in a world which grows closer and closer to us. Our children will work for peace and security with those in other communities, other states, and other lands. As we plan for Food and Agriculture and Commerce in a world sense, so must we plan for education on the international front.

There is no need for me to continue to catalogue major challenges to communities The list is long. The development of our cities, towns, villages, and rural areas has been ragged. What we have to do is create in our home towns situations in which all major problems are under continuing relentless attack. We must assign priorities — solve existing difficulties, and be continuingly ready to move on to new problems.

The dislocations are present, the tasks are at hand, the need for intelligent solutions is great -- How can we do the job?

One method that works is the organization of a citizen-community council.

We of the New York State Citizens' Council have aided and observed local councils in successful attacks on community questions. Through community councils individual citizens and representatives of community service organizations have pooled their resources to overcome mutual community-wide obstacles.

Today progressive communities are taking inventory, many of them through their councils, and are weighing their resources against their needs. They are discovering what remains to be done to reach maximum enjoyment and satisfaction in community life. Problems about which the individual can do nothing are being solved by people from different interest areas who meet on common ground to discuss, plan and take action <u>together</u> toward the mutual goal of community betterment.

In many cases, the community council is the common ground where the people meet. It is surprising how much can be accomplished when citizens put their heads together at a council gathering. Local citizens councils are bridging gaps in communities and giving direction to varied organizational activity for the good of the whole community. They are lifting community spirit, developing citizen concern with local affairs, furnishing effective leadership and serving as guide posts in a gigantic program for sound community planning and development.

They are active throughout New York State and elsewhere in the nation. Citizens in these towns are proving that American democracy has no peer in the kind of vitality and cooperative action that gets things done.

What are some of these community councils doing? For example: they are combatting juvenile delinquency through organization of effective youth recreation programs; they are whipping citizen lethargy with lively and dramatic adult education classes and public forums on local, national and world-wide issues. Community

councils have found housing for veterans; helped bring industrial plants into their town; called attention to poor sanitation procedures; organized musical talent into a community symphony orchestra; sponsored clean-up campaigns to improve the physical appearance of their town; attracted educational institutions to the community -- and engaged in many activities which have made all the townspeople proud to declare THIS IS MY TOWN. All this is on the record.

A community council can turn an empty store into a teen-age club. It can run a nursery for harrassed, working mothers. It can streamline an old-fashioned school system and conduct United Nations forums and discussions. It can organize an entire community into a powerful, democratic force and wake up every member of the community to a realization that cooperation among nations begins with cooperation among people right in their own home town. Yes, this is all on the record.

Inspiring stories of democratic achievement and citizen harmony are found in New York State. The stories are repeated from coast to coast, but I speak of New York because it is the state with which I am most familiar.

Our staff members recall vividly, and with delight, the achievements of a council in a small residential central New York community. This was a quiet, rather static town, with little "atmosphere" or activity. The wants of residents were secured from neighboring communities or from the metropolitan area several miles away.

About a year ago some 30 young men and women gathered to take stock of their community with critical eyes. They wanted to do something to cause all its residents to be proud to live there. A community-wide organization was formed and a program drafted to "promote better social activity, civic improvement and general philanthropic work along practical and educational lines." They meant these words which were written in their constitution. They are translating them into action -- and the community is solidly behind them.

Slowly, but with fixed determination, the council members helped overcome citizen apathy. And today community spirit runs high with such projects as the town's first public library, a scholarship fund, a recreation program for youth and a vigorous campaign for a fire-fighting force. Each of these projects is a significant step forward in the history of this small rural community, whose people are applying the principle of "cooperative citizen action" and self-help in a lively community-building enterprise.

In another, and larger, community, a 60-member board and five subcommittees, ably representing most groups in the city, are guiding an active citizens' community council.

Each spring, when member organizations select program chairmen for the coming year, the local council conducts a one-day leadership training institute. The leaders in-the-making discuss issues which should be included in future programs. They learn about the council and its services: the library of up-to-the-minute pamphlets, bulletins, clippings and bibliographies; the special aids for leaders of nationality groups, the active lecture bureau. And they learn more details about how the council utilizes every communication medium in the area for its broad educational program on current affairs.

But a council is no panacea. Unless it works with existing groups -- service clubs, voters leagues, veterans organizations, and so on -- it will fail. And gains can be made wherever and whenever members of any organization, any educational institution, or any governmental agency, view communities in broad perspective.

Perhaps the key to the whole subject is leadership. The war years drove home the blunt fact that each of us has a distinct and important place to fill in the national and world picture. We played our individual parts well to win the war. We must continue to do so to win the peace. The role of the United States in the community of nations demands, to repeat, the best of each of us -- the best leadership, the best service, the best contributions of our talents,-- because these are perhaps the most challenging times in American history.

America could never have been built, our democracy could never have been successful without the leadership and services of millions of citizen volunteers. People who saw what needed to be done and did it made the United States a great nation. And today, volunteers, in teamwork with professionals in all fields, can and will provide the power to maintain our greatness.

We know that communities have leadership resources which have not been tapped. We know leaders can be trained, for the New York State Citizens' Council and other groups have trained them successfully.

* * * *

This afternoon, then, we have said:

First -- Our home towns are central -- they are the key to an intelligent social strategy.

Second -- The challenges to communities are great -- they lie, for example, in planning and land use, in education, health and welfare, they are found wherever the people are.

Third -- There are effective methods for attacking problems -- the organization of local citizens councils, the utilization and expansion of resources of groups like the New York State Citizens' Council, the drawing together in communities of resources of research, education, and administration, the development of intelligent leadership; in short, the broadening of citizen participation in public affairs.

I like Eduard Lindeman's statement "the central functional concept of democracy is participation; when a citizen withdraws, refrains from his policy-making responsibilities, then democracy falters and fails."

May I make one proposal before I conclude? I would like to suggest the establishment of a National Community Foundation financed jointly by government, private foundations, corporate and individual gifts -- its basic purpose -- to give aid to communities, usually through independent state-wide citizens councils and similar groups. Our tasks are clear enough, we have begun to develop the methods, we do need resources adequate for the task at hand. A National Community Foundation could be the catalytic for bringing about cooperative community development and action throughout the country.

David Burnham said, "Make no little plans -- they have no magic to stir men's blood -- and probably themselves will never be realized. Make big plans -- aim high in hope and work -- remembering that a noble, logical diagram once recorded will never die: but long after we are gone will be a living thing, arresting itself with ever growing insistency. Remember that our sons and grandsons are going to do things that would stagger us. Let your watchword be order and your beacon beauty."

As we work through this conference -- when we go back to our home towns, we can

get citizenship in action in our local communities. I am confident we can provide the essential specifics, and that then we can say with Carl Sandburg, "The People, Yes".

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DELIVERY -- Tuesday afternoon, May 18, 1948

Hon. Robert G. Simmons, Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Nebraska
SUBJECT: A PRACTICAL EXPERIMENT IN CITIZENSHIP TRAINING ON THE LOCAL LEVEL
Address before Third National Conference on Citizenship, Hall of Nations, Washington Hotel, Washington, D.C.

I am here today to discuss with you a program that has been initiated in Nebraska as one of the public service activities of the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary.

I take it that you are all acquainted with the Boys' and Girls' State programs of the Legion and Auxiliary. These have proved their worth in a large majority of the states of the nation. They are established activities in the process of acquainting the future adult citizens with the functioning of the government of his state, its purpose and its ideals.

Following the pattern of Boys' State and Girls' State, we have initiated in Nebraska this year what we have named Boys' and Girls' County Government. The one program is complementary to the other. We found in Boys' and Girls' State that the emphasis in the minds of the youngsters was placed upon state government, state offices, and state affairs. That was a natural result, but one which minimized the importance of county and local government. We also discovered that but a very few of the youth attending the state meetings were able to be given any practical understanding of the government that existed at home.

We undertook then to develop a system of clinics in county government where all the emphasis would be on that one function without de-emphasizing the state or national government importance. In this planning we had the cooperation of the State Teachers Association, the Department of Public Instruction, representatives of all parochial schools, the press, and many others.

We selected six counties of varying populations and school conditions. We went into those counties, and asked, and in every instance secured, the cooperation of the county officials, the schools, public and private, and public service organizations. A county chairman was selected. Our general plan was to have each school elect a set of county officers. The students in the eleventh grade were made eligible as candidates, the theory being that they were more mature than those in the lower grades, and yet would be in school another year so as to give continuity to the program. That is the group from which boy and girl Staters are selected in Nebraska. All students in the high school were held to be qualified electors.

Local lawyers then went into each of the schools and explained the purposes and functions of county government and the operation of the election process, and assisted in holding the elections. Spirited election contests were held in every instance for every office. During the period of elections in the schools, the county chairman was in contact with the county officials, and briefing them in the part each was to take in the program. The county officers became the faculty, each to teach the subject of his office. In addition to that staff, local citizens were asked and prepared addresses to the youngsters on the general subject of the government at home. The program has been built around local people and local organizations. Therein lies its strength.

Some one or more public service groups agreed to furnish a lunch for those attending the Boys' and Girls' County.

The schedule for the holding of the "Counties" was so arranged that those of us who were promoting it could attend all six of the meetings.

By ten o'clock on the day appointed, the court house was full and running over with "officials" and teachers. The general program followed was to have an assembly during the morning session. Introductions of each school and each official were made. The day's activities were outlined. Two or more speakers, selected from the community, discussed the purposes, plans, and functioning of county government. Some of these addresses took the form of questions and answers so as to clarify the subjects discussed. Each noon at each meeting the entire group of student officers, adult officers, staff, and citizens met for lunch. At some of the lunches additional addresses were made. By that time the entire group was becoming pretty well acquainted.

In the afternoon the group was broken up. Each student officer went into the office to which he had been elected and there worked with that official on the program that he had outlined for the day. Each officer undertook to acquaint each student with that particular office. The students performed many of the tasks in the offices; they were behind the desks and in the records. Those officers who had field duties took the students with them. Civil and criminal trials, some mock, some real, were had. The functioning and importance of the jury system were demonstrated. To recite all that was done would be to review the important functions of each county office. The day closed with another assembly, and a written report by each student on his experiences, impressions and recommendations. Without exception the students and the county officers involved labeled the experiment a success.

The whole program is bottomed upon the proposition that good government begins at home, for there the reservoir of political power rests in America. It is designed to assist the schools in a program of training for adult citizenship and to emphasize the fact that the strength and stability of the state rests upon the strength and stability of the local units of government.

The elections held in the schools bring to each student a practical understanding of the democratic process of selecting public servants, and to those who were candidates a practical demonstration of the means of offering services to the public. To those elected to offices it gives the opportunity of participating in practical clinics in matters of government. They not only see how the machinery runs but they become a part of it. They receive first-hand knowledge of the powers, duties, and importance of county office. They begin to understand the dignity of public service in a county office. They find out how county government directly touches their lives and those of their family and community. They have the opportunity to develop leadership in civic matters. They begin the building of an acquaintance with others in the county under auspicious circumstances.

For the schools it offers the basis of a county activity where the students meet not in competition but in cooperation in preparation for the duties of citizenship.

But that is not all. It has already been demonstrated that these clinics in county government have caused parents to become interested in and acquainted with their local government and officials. Boys and girls have been teaching fathers and mothers!

County officials have benefited not only as a result of a better understanding by the public of the importance of their work and their office, but have in fact learned also from this program and the contacts and suggestions that have come to them from the youth of their county.

Teachers of civil government have benefited, for they, too, have watched and

supervised elections, visited the court house, been behind the counters at the desks and in the courts. They have seen the government about which they have been teaching and know better whereof they speak.

Early in this program we found that there was no textbook in our schools that adequately covered the subject of county government. We are undertaking to have such a text written from the practical standpoint to be used in the schools generally and in connection with this program. We found also that, aside from the books copying the statutes, there was no manual for county officers. We are undertaking to have one written for each office to be used as the basis for the county officials' participation in this program.

We believe that we are developing in Nebraska another program to aid in the building of a better citizenship for tomorrow. Our country tomorrow will be what those in our schools today make it. We should furnish them good tools and knowledge of their use and an incentive to use them properly. This program is designed to aid in that accomplishment.

We have made mistakes and have had blank spots in the program. That was to be expected. We are contacting every participating student, teacher, official, and citizen. They, with good American frankness, are pointing out the mistakes, the weaknesses, and the need for additions to the program followed this first year. The encouraging thing is that without exception they urge us to go ahead, and in some cases have said we could not stop the program if we would.

Our problem now is not to persuade other counties to follow the program, but rather to hold them back until we can fully develop the organization upon which a statewide, every-county program can be based. We now vision the time about three years hence when we will have the staff, the trained personnel, and the tradition behind this movement so that we can conduct these clinics in every county every year. When that time comes, it will mean that every graduate of every high school in Nebraska will have had three years' experience in the election process, and three years of study of the practical functioning of local government. There will be literally thousands of our young citizens who will have been on the inside of their court house and know why it is there and its importance in the maintenance of our system of government for free men. For them public service in county office will be an exalted service. Literally tens of thousands of fathers and mothers will likewise understand and come to so view their local government.

I have served in county office, national office, and now in state office. I have had something to do with numerous public service activities. It is my considered judgment that I have never been connected with any activity that has the potential for good that exists in this movement which I have here briefly described.

We in Nebraska believe in this system of government that is ours; we desire to strengthen it where its power lies — at home. We shall be happy to tell any of you more about it, to aid you in adapting it to the conditions of your state, and to have your aid in improving it, not only in Nebraska, but in this America which is and must remain ours.

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AN ADDRESS

BY

TOM C. CLARK

ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES

PREPARED FOR DELIVERY AT

THE THIRD NATIONAL CONFERENCE

ON CITIZENSHIP

CONSTITUTION HALL

WASHINGTON, D.C.

TUESDAY, MAY 13, 1948

7:45 P. M., EDT

It is with genuine pleasure that I have the opportunity to participate in the Third National Conference on Citizenship. I shall always cherish the privilege of being present at the birth of this Conference in Philadelphia two years ago, and of being invited again one year later to join you in the second anniversary in Boston.

I wish every American could have been here and witnessed the inspiring massing of the colors by these beautiful young women. It brings forcibly home to us the significance of this meeting. As President Truman so aptly said in his greetings to the delegates at the opening session yesterday- This is "a Conference so timely and so important." And what could be more important than an assembly of Americans dedicated to the building of a better America and a better world.

The Apostle Paul, on the occasion of his arrest during a riot in Jerusalem, drew the attention of his captors when he proudly exclaimed: "I am a man — of Tarsus -- a citizen of no mean city and demand to be heard."

Two thousand years later, in this year of 1948, a friend traveling abroad was standing in line for customs inspection. He heard the inspector in clipped tone ask the man ahead, "Subject of what country?"

The man to whom the question was addressed exclaimed, "Subject of no country! I am a citizen of the United States!"

Many of us, however, have been in the habit of taking our citizenship too much for granted, especially in peacetime. We seem to overlook the fact that United States citizenship is the most precious asset in the world. I wish that you could know of the infinite pains that we in the Department take to protect the rights of the individual. Attorneys spend days sometimes

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to make certain that individual freedom is preserved. Of course this work does not make the headlines -- because the person involved is more often little known. But to us there is no common man -- Citizenship is the peerage in these United States.

I can conceive no greater joy than being an American citizen, but I can also conceive no greater duty. Especially is the latter brought home to us in these anxious times when an aching world is struggling to find a cure for its baffling ills.

These hundreds of persons from public spirited organizations and governmental agencies, together with scores of other individuals from over our country, who are here, taking part in this inspiring conference, realize that the heritage we enjoy as stockholders of this great Republic is something more than its vast and rich resources. It is more than the majestic mountains, the mighty rivers, the beautiful lakes; it is more than the sprawling acres of timberland, the calm villages and hamlets, the mines, and the throbbing, thriving industrial centers.

Through the ages, the spirit of man has yearned for individual liberty; but ours was the first nation in the history of mankind to build a way of life on equality, opportunity, justice and freedom of spirit.

Yes, it is immeasurably more. Our heritage includes the things that mankind has longed and searched for since the dawn of time. Here we may travel freely, speak our thoughts, worship in our faiths, select our vocations, start our business, choose our friends, own our homes, and live undisturbed under the law. The employee of today may become the employer of tomorrow. Ours is truly the land of equal justice and opportunity for all, and ours is the responsibility to see that no iron curtain shall shut out justice and opportunity.

It was no easy task to create this nation with its countless opportunities. It was no easy task to build it to this high position of influence for good. And it is no easy task to keep going on the principles and ideals upon which our nation has nourished and grown.

Our democratic form of government is not a mushroom growth — it is the result of centuries and centuries of struggle, suffering and sacrifice.

Because we believe it to be the best method evolved by man for the well-being of the people, we recently staked our entire existence that our nation and its precepts might endure. We cannot forget that we fought two world wars within our generation. The wounds of the first were not healed before we were forced to fight a second war. Our country gave of its youth and its energy. It poured forth billions of its wealth that these rights might be maintained.

And now, once again — through no fault of our own — the very ideals and principles that made for our progress are being threatened — yes, threatened from within as well as from without.

When VE and VJ came, we as a nation grabbed the carpet slippers, hied to the rocking chair, — smug in the thought that victory had brought to us a year-round vacation. We presumed our duty was done — no more conflicts — no more wars — the enemy had been routed for this time and all time. Democracy was anchored in safe harbor, and our responsibility was ended. That is what some Americans so lightly thought.

Now we are again learning the solemn lesson that there is no safe harbor for democracy — that there never can be a safe harbor for democracy — no permanent dry-dock for our Ship of State.

Permanently moored it would rust, rot, and fall apart. It must be always moving forward, and built to stand stormy weather. And all is not

(OVER)

smooth sailing today. As always, the world continues to change. America must have the vision and determination to assist in seeing that the world changes for the betterment of mankind -- that the cause of human progress is our cause.

Fortunately, we have made a start in that direction. We are no longer a hermit nation -- hiding away from the rest of mankind. Yet there are still some in the United States who would emulate the ostrich -- unmindful of the fact that ideologies hostile to our very life are stalking our land, as well as the rest of the world, and that science has made greater advance during the past fifty years than in the previous two thousand years. And the discovery of atomic energy is only a beginning.

A grave question now facing the peoples of the world, especially those of the United States, is whether we are prepared, spiritually, intellectually, and morally to combat the evil forces that have been let loose upon us. We must recognize and obey spiritual law, as well as man-made law, and we must respect the universal brotherhood of mankind, or our civilization may be doomed.

We must keep constantly before us the truth taught by the lowly Carpenter over nineteen hundred years ago.

As science conquers the forces of nature, spiritual advancement must keep pace, to the end that newly-discovered powers may be used for the benefit of all humanity - for happiness and life, not for misery and death.

In this the churches, the schools, labor groups, all the reliable avenues of information, civic groups, and organizations such as this conference, must arouse not only our own citizenry, but also peoples everywhere, to the truths of the atomic era and to the vital urgency of building

understanding and peace. We cannot rest on our oars and hope to reach peaceful shores.

This conference alone cannot achieve the goal. But its thousand determined men and women can return to their home communities and enlist the aid of their neighbors in this cause. In the final analysis it is the individuals in the local communities upon whose shoulders rests the responsibility of maintaining our form of government and bringing an enduring peace to the world.

As science has made today's world one neighborhood, our liberty is entwined with that of peoples everywhere. Our future is associated with the future of a thousand million people throughout the world who have never had enough to eat! Our health is linked with that of countless other millions, menaced by starvation, who have never known what real health means!

To help keep the peace for which we all pray, we are assisting those in need — assisting them in a material way.

Our foreign and domestic policies are two sides of the same medallion. We are assisting peoples across the sea with some necessities of life so that they may restore their peace and freedom. Generous as we are in our dealings with those peoples, we must continue to be as just and generous with each other here at home.

We must be on constant guard against these subversive forces in our midst — be they Communists, Fascists, or Nazis, -- who would destroy our peace, sap our strength and undermine our security, and divide and weaken us so that this nation would be a soft prey for any foe.

Your government is fully aware of the danger, and has taken and continues to take steps to meet it within the framework of the Constitution

(OVER)

and as our present laws permit, as I stated at our Boston Conference last year.

You will probably recall that at that time I also pledged there would be no witch hunts. And I renew that pledge now! The time and the clock will not be turned back!

I wish to emphasize again that the safest and best way to combat sinister "isms" and subversive groups who seek to overthrow our government by force and violence -- the best way to defeat a Godless ideology -- is to make the ideal of democracy a living fact -- to make our way of life such as to enlist and keep the loyalty of our citizens in thought, in feeling and in action.

As the stream seeks the sea, man seeks the fulfillment of his being. We should make it possible for the stream of life to flow unobstructed so that every individual may have the opportunity for a full and abundant life and to become a responsible member of the community.

The obligation is upon us, the citizenry, to provide the facilities whereby the intellectual and physical energies of all our citizens -- especially those who may be forgotten and neglected -- are cultivated and put to productive use. This is stock-taking time for the Citizenship Conference. What does the inventory show? We admit that it is not a perfect warehouse. But stocking it with wicked ideologies will not make it better stock. Only by stock piling more democracy will we make our country safe.

The ills of democracy can be cured only by more democracy -- reducing squalor, disease and distress housing. In the fullness of democracy there should be no underpaid school teachers and no millions of children without adequate health and school facilities. This is important when one realizes

that over 42,000,000 of our population are under the age of 18 years. And 5,000,000 of these are not in school.

This is the challenge of the hour and the day. Groups like yours must see that programs to blot out this stigma on our National life shall not be sabotaged. And I am referring specifically to bills now in Congress that would provide aid to education and housing for millions of our people.

However, let us always remember that while democracy is not perfect, the democratic ideal has sustained our Nation since its beginning; that while in our daily practices we have on many occasions fallen short of the ideal, in the long run we have been moving in the direction of our goal.

We must continue to move in that direction!

Our hope in the most promising age of all mankind rests upon the shoulders of American citizens — Unselfish! Enlightened! Unafraid!

With God's help we will go forward traveling the upper highway, seeking the peak of freedom, security and prosperity for all humanity.

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SECTION XXII

DISCUSSION OF MAY 18, 1948, 9 A.M.

ON

BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS AND ATTENDANT RESPONSIBILITIES

AND

DISCUSSION OF MAY 18, 1948, 2 P.M.

ON

CITIZENSHIP IN ACTION IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

Mr. Howard Beteson, Principal, Jefferson Junior High School, Dubuque, Iowa

Miss Linna E. Bresette, Field Secretary, Catholic Conference on Industrial Problems, 1312 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington 5, D.C.

Mrs. Karyl Kanet Chipman, Member of Board, Washington Ethical Society, 4612 Chevy Chase Boulevard, Chevy Chase, Maryland

Mr. Dan Culhane, American Boys Club, 605 14th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.

Dr. H. H. Giles, Bureau of Intercultural Education, 157 West 13th Street, New York 11, New York -- Acting Chairman, Reports Chairman

Mrs. Mattie C. Lee, Member of Advisory Committee, National Non-Partisan Council on Public Affairs, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, 105 Seaton Place, N.W., Washington 1, D.C.

Mrs. Eugenie A. Leonard, Catholic University of America, Washington 7, D.C.

Mrs. Benjamin Margolin, National Council on Jewish Women, 1637 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington 6, D.C.

Mr. George S. Mitchell, Southern Regional Council, 63 Auburn Avenue, N.E. Atlanta, Georgia

Miss Mary E. Mohler, Ethical Society, 2500 Q Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.

Mrs. Margaret F. Stone, National Women's Trade Union League, 317 Machinists Building, Washington 1, D.C.

Mrs. Marie R. Turner, Superintendent, Breathitt County Schools, Jackson, Kentucky

Mr. Ralph N. Warner, Chairman, National Council United American Veterans, 1901 Columbia Road, N.W., Washington 9, D.C.

Mr. James J. White, Analyst, Department of the Army, 1609 Preston Road, Alexandria, Virginia

Miss Susanne Shaffer, Tax Division, Room 4335, Department of Justice, Washington 25, D.C. - Stenographer

Mr. Watkins - Clerk

SECTION XXII

BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS AND ATTENDANT RESPONSIBILITIES

DISCUSSION OF MAY 18, 1948, 9 A.M.

Beginnings

In today's discussion we began to see all kinds of things. One was a spread of interests and concern to include the following: 1) The right of the individual to develop to the fullest, came in today and yesterday as the inclusive thing with which we were concerned. 2) We were concerned with the legal, organizational and economic problems of assuring full human rights.

We were concerned with the difference between our creed and our practice, and that at the very beginning was stated as a moral problem. Then, as we went on, was stated also an instrumental problem, viz. how do you make your morality work effectively? We were concerned with the grass root basis for getting changes that are needed for assuring full human rights; the grass root basis meaning: participation of all human individuals in getting these rights for themselves, whether it is through federal, state or local action, and that as opposed to the notion that a small group in Washington might operate for what they thought was the good of the country and impose on people something which they did not understand or accept. We spoke also of a contrary aspect which was the need for federal intervention or at least initiation in fields where people were too weak and too opressed to act for themselves. And along with that, I think, we brought in the idea which was very important, of how the concern of all the people may be necessary to operate in some local situation where those in power are not concerned with all the people.

Next, was brought forward the fits and starts problem in our country which is surely related to all of these, the idea that we initiate a good thing and then let it drop until a crisis comes and then we take it up again. A member of the discussion group gave us the idea that there should be long range planning and action aimed at a target.

Finally, we concluded this beginning survey with a statement that we must recognize not only the inclusive object of rights which will assure full development of all, but also must break that down into the specifications which have to be tackled. — That was our beginning.

Major Areas and Points of Emphasis

Next, we went into a discussion which resulted, I think, in the identification of these as the major areas of our concern: law, employment, housing, health, education, free speech and free association, and the development of a democratic morality, if I may use that term for what, I think, we were talking about. In the discussion of these areas, it was pointed out that freedom of association is necessary because without organized groups, the individual is powerless, and then we went on and it was said that unless he is a member of a group, a working group, the individual does not become all that he is capable of becoming, in the words of one of our members "He that looses his life, shall find it". Next, the point was made that by organizing to secure human rights an educational process has begun. An example was the Trade Union in which there are many skills to be learned, the skill of electing officers, of financing, of being represented. Then very strongly came the idea that to achieve real freedom, it must be created by the people and not for the people.

It was strongly put forward several times that there are rights which are intrinsic in the individual, in the state and in God. Another formulation, timidly put forward by the chairman at one point, was that there are rights which we may designate in differing ways, but that standardly we are concerned about the over all objective all the time — and this in the field of morality — of the fullest possible development of all human beings. With that point, however, came another, which seemed to me very important which was that it isn't enough to have an aim and an organization, you have to have a guiding morality or your aim and your organization are not being guided by a high principle necessarily. We repeated the idea that you can't talk people into being good. They learn it through experience, through acting together for a good purpose. We emphasized that a federal law at the best is permissive except in the case where local refusal to act has to be overcome, and examples were given. We emphasized that with every new idea, you must introduce new skills in administering the idea and then later that with every law, there is the administration of the law which determines whether or not it is successful and that therefore

you have to have with law, education of the people who administer the law. A desirable pattern to solve the problem of law would be federal, state and local cooperation in place of federal force to carry out mutual understanding and agreement. A point was made that the Government could have an important function in setting standards and patterns for how things could be well done. Also that the Government could set minimums for essentials like health and housing. Then was made the point that it is the responsibility of local government to accept such help and, I suppose, the implication was to get citizens through education to see to it that local government carries out that responsibility.

One of the final comments that rang the bell with me was that you won't necessarily solve a problem by changing one master for another. The inquiry again is, what is the moral commitment of the person or the organization to whom you trust the making of the change which is essential? Our final point of emphasis was that the time is short. That there are injustices, inequalities and sufferings so great, that unless we really mean business and do business, to assure all the people of these basic rights and do give them a chance to exercise their responsibilities, we may be finding ourselves in the hands of someone who will promise to do it for them, and who will end our democracy.

SECTION XXII

CITIZENSHIP IN ACTION IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

DISCUSSION OF MAY 18, 1948 2 P.M.

Recommendation of the Group:

Motion

Recommendation of this group that this conference sponser a National Citizenship Council as an outgrowth of this conference which will be supported by the Government and by other groups.

Motion seconded.

Amendment offered:

While the Government be invited to put money into it and support it with some leadership from interested agencies, that its primary organizational support comes from civilian local groups.

Amendment accepted.

Discussion of Motion — Functions of Council

In the following paragraphs members of the group expressed their views as to the functions of the Council.

1) I would say that one of the first functions should be research into better methods for teaching citizenship; second, coordination of already existing national groups who are working on citizenship; third, to act as a clearing house for information on points of view and technicalities of carrying forward plans for citizenship. Those three are therefore: research, coordination and dissemination.

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2) Somebody has to and nobody is yet preparing material for this important point, dissemination. Local special interest groups should be financed to prepare material such as posters and pamphlets to spread information. Another form of dissemination would be to have educational leaders from one part of the country travel to another so that we can get a wide interchange of ideas. In my opinion that is the most fruitful thing. I have also had the idea for a long time that every American youngster should be brought to Washington, to be taught that Washington is the symbol of our democracy. We should bring young leadership material while it is still very malleable.

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3) If such an organization, as the proposed Council, had been available, it could have had materials on hand to counteract the type of superintendent who is a stone wall. (Statement refers to an example mentioned in the discussion).

I would like to see another important function of the Council to confront children with representatives of the various minority groups such as Chinese, Indians and Negroes, to bring about a better mutual understanding.

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Motion carried unanimously and so reported.

For Release to
Afternoon Papers of
May 19, 1948

A FREE AND FAITHFUL CITIZEN

Closing Address of Donald R. Richberg
at Third National Conference on Citizenship
in Auditorium of Department of Interior
Washington, D.C. on May 19, 1948, at 10 A.M.

The men and women of tomorrow will be forced to choose. They will become the free and faithful citizens of a government which they control, or the fear-ridden subjects of a government which controls them.

These alternatives are not yet clearly seen by masses of bewildered and worried people. But they are being made more visible day by day as the self-proclaimed "liberators" of mankind proceed by force and treachery to free millions of men and women from the pains and problems of self-government and give them the security and humiliation of an accepted slavery.

We are told, however, that some irresistible "wave of the future" is sweeping humanity into a new way of life that is inevitable. But, in truth, this latest drive of would-be-master-men to rule the world is only a wave of the past. The old wave of tyranny is rolling again with renewed violence against the mental barriers that great apostles of freedom have raised and maintained throughout recorded history to preserve individual liberty and the dignity of the human soul.

Men and women will resist; their broken, bleeding bodies will make impassable barricades, so long as their minds are clear and their spirits are resolute. But, the enslavers of today have learned much from the defeated enslavers of yesterday. They delay the launching of force and treachery against the flesh of freemen until they have confused their minds and softened their spirits.

That is why it is more important today to reinvigorate the faith of the American people in self-government than it is to draft them into armies. Of course we must be ready and willing to fight and to die for our freedom, or we are not worthy of it. But, unless we know the profound value of our liberties, unless we really understand that self-control and self-discipline in the exercise of our liberties are essential to preserve them, we will make poor soldiers in the battle for freedom.

It is a time when we may well refrain from boasting, and candidly consider our weaknesses as citizens. We have a great common heritage; but if we are too selfish, too short-sighted and too self-indulgent to defend it by common sacrifice and equal devotion to a common cause, we will lose that great common heritage.

We will not long remain free citizens if we are not faithful citizens.

We need not scold one another, with a million pots calling a million kettles black. We can begin by confessing that most of us frequently lose sight of the simplest, most fundamental principles of good citizenship, in the confusion and uncertainties of our complex modern life. Of course there are a few exalted souls who, according to their own conceit, never go astray and are always right. They need no advice. But, the rest of us may gain strength by an honest confession of frequent error.

What are some of the principles of good citizenship which we often fail to follow?

One is the principle of obedience to law.

Another is the principle that a free society must be a self-disciplined society.

Another is the principle that a free government can be sustained only by a free economy.

Probably these three are enough big principles to squeeze into one little talk.

Why is it that we, American citizens, fail so frequently to obey the laws that we enact?

Primarily this is because our inbred love of individual liberty permits us to make a virtue of a disobedience that we should regard as a sin.

We know that traffic laws are written to make highway travel safe. But, we foolishly enjoy substituting individual judgment for a rule of law, if there is no policeman watching us.

This brings us to a second cause of national lawlessness. In order to maintain the democratic quality of local self-government and to preserve individual liberty, we have devised a complicated system of local, state and national laws, all under the dominion of constitutional laws that limit majority powers and establish minority rights. As a result, law-making in the United States is a tremendous business. The volume of city ordinances, state laws, federal laws and judge-made laws is so enormous that no one engaged in any large business can function without the constant, and often unreliable, advice of a lawyer.

The effect of frequent conflict and uncertainty in the laws is to encourage the disregard or evasion of any legal rule that might hamper a citizen in doing what he wished to do. And, as a final justification for deliberate lawlessness, the free citizen can always assert that an offensive law is actually not a law, because it

violates some constitutional restriction upon the power of our lawmakers to make laws.

Thus we come to a third cause of national lawlessness; and that is a deep difference of opinion among Americans as to the extent to which our government should regulate the daily life and work of our citizens.

There are millions of men and women in the United States today who earnestly believe that a modern government should accept a large measure of a social responsibility for the welfare of all citizens. They believe that the government should insure the development and control of enterprises that will provide employment for all able and willing workers, that the government should insure everyone an education to the extent of his capacity, and then insure a good living out of satisfactory employment, or at least a tolerable living for those who are, for any reason, incapable of self-support.

The great majority of our citizens who have this idealistic concept of what a government can and should do are still desirous of preserving individual liberty, which can only exist where individual rights of property and individual liberties of contract are preserved. Accordingly these citizens believe that by a combination of government enterprises and government regulation of private enterprises, the government can lead us into the promised land of state socialism, without exercising the tyrannical authority of a communist dictatorship. Nothing is more alluring than the prospect of having one's cake after eating it. How satisfactory it would be to have a benevolent despotism insure every man a good living and at the same time his individual liberty in the making and spending of his income! This is the childhood concept of a perfect parent. It is a childish

concept of a perfect government.

It is not necessary for me to reveal all the prejudices of an old-fashioned liberal (now called a "reactionary") in order to question whether our form of government can accept and fulfill such a social responsibility. It has been made quite evident by experiments at home and abroad that only one central government, exercising a national police power, can even attempt such a task.

Thus it is only necessary for an old-fashioned liberal to point out: First, the national and state governments of these United States, whose powers are carefully limited by constitutional restrictions, were not created or intended as fit instruments for the establishment and control of a socialized economy.

Second, it would be necessary to enlarge the powers of the national government and to make all state and local governments completely subordinate to a practically unlimited national authority, in order to establish and maintain a socialized economy.

Third, when such a national government is established the American people will no longer be free citizens enjoying self-government. They will become the subjects of a totalitarian government. This means that in reality they will become the subjects of an all-powerful ruling class operating a lawfully established police state, with a dictatorship which will be irresistible by any means short of civil war.

This is why the men and women of America must choose today whether they wish to remain free citizens, faithful to the government established by the Constitution of the United States, or whether they really believe that that form of government has outlived its usefulness and that an utterly different form of government should be

established in its place.

Let us not delude ourselves with the idea that we are deeply concerned with the difference between the actual communist program to overthrow our government by force and the ostensible program to accomplish the triumph of national socialism by peaceful means.

Let us acknowledge the right of free citizens to seek to change our form of government by peaceful means. But, let us be resolute and uncompromising in our opposition to reactionary reform that calls itself liberalism. Let us have strength in our conviction that when men lose faith in the only form of government in which individual liberty is preserved, they lose faith in themselves. Then they are no longer free men and women. They are willing to sell liberty for a promise of security. They are willing to become serfs in a modern feudalism, which will be more tyrannical than the feudalism that our ancestors destroyed centuries ago.

Those of us who are resolved to remain the free and faithful citizens of our republic must understand, not only that the laws of the land should be obeyed, but also that a free society must be a self-disciplined society.

If only the presence of a policeman prevented murder or robbery or mob rule, our lives and property would not be safe and our freedom would be always shadowed by fear. It is not fear of punishment, but respect for law, that controls the conduct of a large majority in a free society. Individuals or minorities who only yield obedience to a policeman's club are not faithful citizens. They are not worthy of the freedom which they abuse.

If a majority were as lawless as a minority of our citizens are from time to time, we would face a choice between anarchy, which

could not be endured, and the iron rule of a militarized government, which would preserve order by severe restraints on individual freedom.

Without naming persons, let us call the roll to identify a few outstanding types of unfaithful citizens.

To begin with those for whom there is the least excuse, let us place the business monopolist at the head of our list. The simple fact that a free government can be sustained only by a free economy is often forgotten, but never successfully ignored. It is the inevitable tendency of human beings who enjoy the possession of a little power to seek to enlarge it steadily toward that ultimate illusion of absolute control. Competition is a stimulating, but also a tiresome factor in making a success of one's work. Competition is the life of trade, but may cause the death of a trader. So the desire to eliminate what is apparently "destructive competition" is natural, and therefore any free government which is supportable only by a free economy, must be eternally vigilant to prevent and destroy private monopolies.

There is no easy escape from this obligation by undertaking public ownership or public regulation of monopolies. Some natural monopolies can wisely be excluded from the area of free enterprise and be state owned, like the postal service, or can be state regulated like telephone, electric and gas service. But, to preserve a free economy, the vast area in which goods and services are produced and distributed for common use must be kept free from detailed political regulation and subject to the automatic regulation of a real competition to satisfy consumer demands in an open market.

With the best intentions and large appropriations the national government cannot prevent all monopolistic practices by business men,

any more than a competent police force can prevent all automobile accidents or robberies or embezzlements. In order to maintain a genuine competition as the regulator of production costs and selling prices, we must rely mainly, not on the public prosecution of monopolists but on willing obedience to anti-monopoly laws by private business managers. Those who do not already know this, should be educated to understand that the elimination of monopolistic practices is just as essential to the life of private enterprise as the elimination of dishonesty and fraud in dealing with customers and investors.

It is an extraordinary development that today the most conspicuous and effective monopolists regulating the production costs, and thereby the selling prices, of American products are not the managers who represent ownership, but those representatives of organized labor who have become in fact business regulators with great authority.

We cannot place these labor leaders on a list of law-breaking monopolists, however, because, through a series of political blunders our national laws provide, first, that labor union monopolies can be lawfully organized, and second that monopolistic controls of industry and trade by labor unions are lawful.

Nevertheless, we should point out that labor leaders are blinded by self-interest and unfaithful to their free citizenship when they resist laws enacted to destroy their monopolistic powers. If these are not destroyed, they will in the end themselves destroy a competitive economy which is the only economic system in which labor can be free.

Next on our roll of unfaithful citizens we should list those politicians who, as legislators stretch their authority by artful

evasion of constitutional limitations upon their power. Along with them are executives who stretch the authority vested in them by dubious laws. And then there should be a place of appropriate dishonor for judges who stretch their authority so as to sanctify unconstitutional laws which they personally approve, or to nullify laws which they disapprove.

There is little to be said in excuse for these constitution stretchers. Every public official is sworn to support the Constitution. The restriction of political power to preserve individual liberty is a foundation principle of the Constitution.

Therefore, whenever it is doubtful whether the Constitution has authorized our law makers to substitute government controls for individual judgment that doubt should be resolved in favor of individual liberty.

We have seen in recent years a great variety of laws enacted by Congress under the alleged authority of a constitutional grant of power to regulate commerce "among the several states". Bit by bit, local government of local commerce within the states has been destroye Bit by bit, executive officials have stretched their authority beyond even the vision of legislative stretchers. Bit by bit, stretching judges have sanctified the executive and legislative stretching.

Today the question is: Has the Constitution been permanently stretched out of its original shape into the prophetic shape of things to come? If we cannot restore the original shape, can we prevent further distortion? Or, shall we go on stretching it until the fabric of our government breaks down under the intolerable strain of encouraging the growth of national socialism within the frame of a government designed to secure the blessings of liberty to all its citizens?

There is another type of politician who merits dishonorable mention on our roll call. That is the fanatic champion of special interests who threatens to desert his fellow citizens in a time of national need unless his demands are met. The milder disloyalists only threaten to stop work that is essential for national defense unless wages or working conditions are made satisfactory to them. The ranker disloyalists threaten to refuse to fight for their country unless the armed services are organized and operated in accord with their ideas. It may be suggested that those who are unwilling to work or fight for their country against a foreign foe should be relieved of all the benefits as well as the burdens of a citizenship which they betray.

Before we close our roll call we must list two opposing types of unfaithful citizens, who are unwilling to rely solely upon lawful procedures to accomplish their aims. Both are ready and willing to resort to mob rule when they cannot gain their ends by peaceful, orderly methods.

At one extreme we have those who organize secret societies and vigilance committees, either to prevent the enforcement of laws or to take law enforcement into their own hands.

At another extreme we have those who openly organize mass picketing and gangster methods of intimidating persons who will not support the policies or submit to the discipline of labor unions.

So long as organized labor was struggling for existence, so long as the arbitrary use of money power seemed to justify the militant use of man power, so long as the law protected economic coercion by employers and restrained economic coercion by employees, the lawlessness of labor organizations had the excuse, if not the

justification, of apparent necessity.

We can understand the reluctance of labor leaders now to lay aside any of the weapons with which they have waged a successful warfare to obtain the power of self-protection and self-advancement. But, the abuses of this labor power by many labor leaders in recent years, the recklessness with which the entire public interest has been sacrificed, even in time of war, to advance the private interests of well organized minorities, have made it plain that the dominance of the general welfare must be reestablished by law. The law has given and the law must take away the special privileges and immunities by virtue of which labor unions have been practically licensed to violate the laws that punish all others who engage in comparable conspiracies to injure their fellow-citizens.

It is reasonable to hope and to demand that in the near future the leaders of organized labor will ally themselves with other faithful citizens in support of a government of law and order, under which men are free from all forms of public or private tyranny. Those who are unwilling to sustain such a government should openly acknowledge their preference for a dictatorship of the proletariat, and no longer pose as the champions of a democracy.

This word "democracy" is being perverted to such base uses nowadays that it would be well for every free and faithful citizen to have a clear understanding of what a democratic government should do for him and what it should not do. If he understands that our democracy should guarantee him individual liberty and equality of opportunity to pursue happiness according to his ambitions and to achieve his amibitions according to his abilities, he will be satisfied with our democratic constitutional form of government.

If, however, a citizen of the United States believes that his government should control all property rights, a control destructive of individual liberty, and should accept responsibility for providing all citizens with employment and a state regulated income, and should establish an economic and social equality for all citizens, he cannot be faithful to our form of government. That concept of government is not written into our constitution. It is written into the Constitution of communist Russia.

It is the fashion of many who are dissatisfied with our Constitution to quote the phrase "all men are created equal", which is not written in the Constitution, but in the Declaration of Independence. However, that famous phrase is the declaration of a political principle - that is, that all men are created equal in the eye of the law. In a democracy all men have equal political rights, the right to participate equally in government and the right to equal treatment by the government.

Neither Thomas Jefferson nor any other signer of the Declaration, nor any signer of the Constitution, ever made the obviously false statement that all men are created equal in ability or character - and no one except a communist with his tongue in his cheek ever claimed that a government could or should guarantee to all men an equal share in the products of a society and an equality of treatment by their fellow-citizens.

Men are created different, and so unequal in ability and character that education cannot make a wise man out of a born fool; nor can lack of education make a fool out of a born wise man. Men are created unequal in physical as well as mental strength. A congenital weakling is not created as the physical equal of a born athlete.

Equality is not something that you are born with. It is something that you may create. You may be well born and degrade yourself to an equality with rogues. You may be poorly born and lift yourself to an equality with great servants of mankind.

Every effort by law to create an artificial equality among men is doomed to failure, because no man made law can change a natural law. We might write an anti-gravitation law but we could not enforce it.

The founders of our government were democrats because they believed in individual liberty, but not in the liberty of men to oppress their fellow men. So they sought to safeguard the liberties of the weak as well as the strong and to protect the essential freedom of individuals and minorities from suppression by majority rule. And, thus they created equality of opportunity. But they left men free to think and speak and worship as they pleased, free to associate and to make agreements with whom they pleased, free to like or to dislike things and people, regardless of what things and people other men like and dislike. They left men free to acquire and use private property, which is essential to individual liberty.

We live in a world far different from that world in which our Constitution was written. But, in all the changing years since the founding of our government, no gathering of wise men has ever designed a government that has preserved human freedom, and created opportunities for the protection and advancement of human welfare, more effectively than the government established in the Constitution of the United States.

New forms of tyranny have been devised in every decade of human history. But, under the government created by our Constitution

the American people for one hundred and sixty years have been developing steadfastly a greater measure of individual liberty and a higher standard of living for more people than have ever been enjoyed anywhere else on earth.

Poverty, injustice and suffering in other lands may lead their peoples to experiment with new political systems, to substitute a controlled economy for a free economy, and to relinquish liberty for political promises of security. But, here in the United States, where the masses of the people are free men and women, enjoying greate economic security and more material satisfactions and spiritual freedo than any other people have ever known, why should we lend attentive ears to the apostles of new political creeds? Why should we regard it as a progressive or liberal policy to abandon constitutional restraints upon the powers of our public officials and to invest them with an ever expanding authority to regulate our daily lives?

To give the rulers of a nation the power to make people prosperous and free from fear is to give them also the power to exploi and ruin people and make them the slaves of fear. Let us continue to withhold such dangerous power from our public officials. Let us retain our powers of self-government rooted in the soil of industrial freedom. Let us pray God that the vast majority of the men and women of America remain faithful to the only form of government under which they can remain free.

CITIZENSHIP COMMITTEE

National Education Association, 1201 Sixteenth Street, N. W., Washington 6, D. C.

THIRD NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CITIZENSHIP, May 16-19, 1948

May 27, 1948

Dear Delegate to the
Third National Conference on Citizenship:

Enclosed you will find copies of the speeches, "thumbnail reports," and other materials related to the Third National Conference on Citizenship. We hope that they will be of interest and value to you and will bring back pleasant memories of an enjoyable and profitable meeting. The many letters we are receiving confirm our belief that the conference was a significant contribution to better citizenship and to our national welfare.

Please check your name on the enclosed list of delegates and send us any corrections regarding the spelling of your name, the listing of your address, or the designation of the organization which you represented.

Plans are already under way for the Fourth National Conference on Citizenship. We hope that next year it will be possible to arrange to have all of the meeting places, and also the exhibits, close to the hotel headquarters.

You may be sure that the Conference Committee was delighted that you attended the conference and appreciated your contribution to the discussions and to the success of the meetings. We hope that in reporting to the organization which you represented you will recommend that plans be made to send delegates to the Fourth National Conference on Citizenship.

A printed report of the third conference will be available early next fall. We plan to send a copy of the final report to each delegate and to each organization represented at the conference.

We shall be glad to have any suggestions, recommendations, or constructive criticisms you care to send us to help in planning for the next meeting.

Thank you again for your interest and cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

Richard B. Kennan

Richard B. Kennan

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

EARLE T. HAWKINS, *Chairman*, Towson, Maryland
LAURENTINE B. COLLINS, Detroit, Michigan
JOANNA Z. CONNELL, Weymouth, Massachusetts
EVAN E. EVANS, Winfield, Kansas
ROBERT F. WILLIAMS, Richmond, Virginia
RICHARD B. KENNAN, NEA headquarters contact
JUDGE CARL B. HYATT, U. S. Department of Justice, *Consultant*

26 - National Conf. on Citizenship, 1948

ADDRESS REPLY TO
"THE ATTORNEY GENERAL"
AND REFER TO
INITIALS AND NUMBER

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

June 4, 1948

RECEIVED
JUN 14 1948
Southern Regional Council

Dear Fellow Citizen:

Enclosed are copies of Dr. Ruth Cunningham's thumbnail reports of the discussion sessions of the Third National Conference on Citizenship. Also enclosed are copies of the speeches, and the "Who's Who" of the Conference.

The printed report carrying the proceedings of the Conference will be sent to you by the National Education Association as soon as it is ready for distribution.

It is desired to have as complete a picture as possible of the news coverage of the Conference. Will you, therefore, be kind enough to send to this office clippings of all items on the Conference carried in your local press.

Sincerely yours,

Carl B. Hyatt

Carl B. Hyatt, Director
Attorney General's Citizenship Program

CITIZENSHIP COMMITTEE

National Education Association, 1201 Sixteenth Street, N. W., Washington 6, D. C.

FOURTH NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CITIZENSHIP, May 15-18, 1949, New York City

26- National Conference on Citizenship.

January 14, 1949

RECEIVED
JAN 24 1949
Southern Regional Council

Dear Co-worker:

We were very much pleased that your organization was among those sending representatives to the Third National Conference on Citizenship last May. The report is just off the press and we are enclosing a copy with this letter.

Extra copies of the report are available at 50 cents each or with discounts as follows, postpaid if remittance accompanies order: 2 to 9 copies, 10 percent reduction; 10 to 99 copies, 25 percent reduction; 100 or more copies, 33 1/3 percent reduction. We hope you will send us your reaction, along with your candid advice and suggestions about the report. If your organization would like extra copies of the report at the above quoted prices, please let us have your order as soon as possible for we are still holding type.

You will be interested to know that the Fourth National Conference will be held at the Commodore Hotel, New York City, May 15-18, 1949, under the joint sponsorship of the National Education Association and the United States Department of Justice. We know that you will want to join with us in this conference and will plan to have a strong, representative delegation. Details about the conference will come to you later.

With all good wishes to you and your organization for a happy and gratifying new year, I am

Sincerely yours,

Richard B. Kennan

Richard Barnes Kennan

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JUDGE CARL B. HYATT, U. S. Department of Justice, *Consultant*

RECEIVED
JAN 24 1949
Southern Regional Council

FOURTH CONFERENCE ON CITIZENSHIP
Sponsored by the NEA Citizenship Committee
May 15-18, 1949 New York

CITIZENSHIP EXHIBIT

Your agency was invited to participate in the exhibit at the Third Annual Citizenship Conference. This is the report of that Conference. Twenty-six agencies supplied materials for separate exhibit booths, and about fifty agencies and organizations contributed materials for a general exhibit booth. The exhibit was very much worthwhile, except that we were unable to get the people who were attending the Conference to the exhibit. This was, of course, a disappointment to the Conference Committee as well as to the exhibitors.

The greatest fault at the exhibit last year was that the General Sessions and the group meetings of the Conference were held in buildings apart from the building in which the exhibits were set up.

The exhibit this year will be immediately adjacent to the main meeting room of the Conference in the Commodore Hotel in New York City. The Fourth Conference will be held May 15-18, 1949 with the exhibits being set up the morning of the 15th and taken down the morning of the 18th. Registration will be in the same room with the exhibits and all of the General Sessions will be in the room immediately adjacent to the exhibits. All of the group meetings of the Conference will be held in the Commodore Hotel. Most of the out-of-town people attending the Conference will probably be staying at that hotel, and the exhibit space will be the natural visiting place for the people participating in the Conference. Consequently, the disadvantage of last year's location will be entirely overcome.

Since the exhibits will be held in the Commodore Hotel, it will be necessary for the Conference Committee to make a charge for exhibit space. Information regarding this charge will be sent out shortly to the companies interested in the exhibit. Since this Conference is being held in New York City, there will undoubtedly be a great interest on the part of the press and on the part of patriotic organizations in the citizenship contributions made by the various organizations which will be attending the Conference.

The exhibit is in charge of Evan Evans, a member of the Conference Committee. All inquiries regarding the exhibits at the Fourth National Conference should be directed to him at Winfield, Kansas.

Exhibit spaces will be assigned in the order in which applications are received. As soon as a reasonable rental fee can be worked out, that information will be sent to the groups which might normally expect to be interested in the exhibit or which have indicated an interest in the exhibit.

All correspondence regarding the Conference exhibits should be directed to Evan Evans, Winfield, Kansas.

26 - Nat'l Conference on Citizenship

Fourth National Conference on Citizenship

Tentative Program

Saturday, May 14, 1949

All day—Special conferences on problems of immigration, naturalization, displaced persons, etc.

Sunday, May 15, 1949

3:00 P. M. "I Am An American Day" Program
6:00 P. M. Dinner for leaders
7:30 P. M. Youth orientation meeting

Monday, May 16, 1949

10:00 A. M. General session—Chairman to introduce theme,
Topic: **"RESPONSIBLE American Citizens—**
"Their Job In Politics"
National
State
Local

2:00 - 4:30 P. M. First Group Sessions
5:30 - 8:00 P. M. Dinner and Second Topic
Topic: **"RESPONSIBLE American Citizens—**
"Their Job In The World Today"
Address
9:00 - 10:00 P. M. Citizenship moving pictures

Tuesday, May 17, 1949

9:00 - 11:30 A. M. Second Group Sessions
12:00 - 2:00 P. M. Luncheon, Third Topic
Topic: **"RESPONSIBLE American Citizens—**
"Their Job In The Community"

2:30 - 5:00 P. M. Third Group Sessions
8:00 - 10:00 P. M. Town Meeting of the Air

Wednesday, May 18, 1949

9:00 - 11:30 A. M. Final General Session
12:30 - 2:00 P. M. Advisory Committee Luncheon and Appraisal Session

WHAT AMERICA EXPECTS

Out of her abundant resources, out of her profound belief in the worth and dignity of every man, America offers you much. She offers freedom and opportunity, and a full share in all the rights and privileges of self-government. To every citizen she extends the assurance that if he wills it, if he has the courage, the enterprise and the faith, then both materially and spiritually his life can be gloriously fulfilled. . . .

What does America ask in return:

America expects Personal Character. America is not a separate entity, apart and distinct from its people. America is the people. America is All-of-Us, incorporated. Therefore, whether America is strong or weak, virtuous or mean, valiant or faltering, depends upon the character of the citizens who compose it. As our collective lives are lived, so is the life of the nation molded. Nothing, then, is worthy of a citizen that is not worthy of America.

America expects a Sense of Values. It expects you to value duty above privileges; to value truth above mere phrases; to value wisdom above cleverness; to value quality above quantity; to value tolerance above any racial or religious prejudice. In every way it expects you to value spirit over matter.

America expects Unity. It expects you to think and act in terms of the whole nation, and not of any one state or section; of the whole people and not of groups or creeds or classes. It expects you to know that America is greater than any of its parts, and that the flag is the emblem of our unity as well as of our glory.

America expects Knowledge—knowledge of our history, knowledge of our literature, knowledge of our ideals. And it expects you to realize that no one can gain this knowledge thoroughly, no one can call himself a real American, unless he speaks and reads and thinks in the language of Americans—which is English. It expects you to learn our language thoroughly, and to value it above all others.

America expects Faith—faith in its form of government and faith in your own capacity to be part of that government. When America gives you the vote it expects you to use it as a self-reliant American. America believes that the right to vote is the right to rule, and expects you to use that power wisely, confidently, loyally, and well. Today, especially, liberty means responsibility.

America expects Effort. In America the key to opportunity bears the label, "work." The men and women who wrested homes and farms from the wilderness, the millions who have here achieved new and successful lives, all turned this key with the diligent labor of hands and minds. And today whether he works in mine or factory or field, in business or in the arts, every citizen stands at the door of opportunity with the same unfailing key in hand. No true American accepts the despairing creed that government "owes him a living." His pride is in his own strength and courage; in his will to serve family, community and nation. * * *

And above all, America expects Patriotism. Patriotism in word and thought and deed. It expects you to so live that America will be a better place because you are a part of it. It expects you to put into practice all that you have learned by studying the Constitution and the laws and the principles of this country. It expects you to attest in your every activity an unswerving devotion to America—the America to which you have sworn allegiance, the America in whose service you are proud to live, the America in whose defense you are willing to die; America, the hope of humanity.

RAYMOND PITCAIRN.

(Excerpts from Today We are Americans All. Copyright. 1942.)